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See feature on pages 16-19

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2013 (PAGES 23-27)

Samaritans 'shocked' as help van hit by thieves

by PHILIP IRWIN



The familiar green van belonging to Bridgend Samaritans, which fell victim to callous thieves.

A LOCAL charity, Bridgend Samaritans, has been deeply shocked after thieves targeted its van and - in the course of stealing its exhaust and catalytic converter - caused damage totalling £2,500.

The distinctive green van, often seen at local events, and in town centres when Samaritans are doing outreach work in the community, has always been left on the forecourt outside the charity's base in Green Street, Bridgend.

A Samaritans' spokesman said: "The theft took place sometime during the week of February 4-9, when it was parked in its usual place."

The van was bought from fundraising in the wake of the 'Bridgend Suicides' in 2008, and is regularly used by the branch to attend events throughout the region.

Its most high-profile use is for the weekly 'Feet on the Street' (FOTS) service on Saturday evenings in Bridgend town centre, which provides a valuable listening service to those who are feeling distressed or worried, and wish to talk to someone in confidence.

John Osborne, the

chairman of Bridgend Samaritans, said: "We are all deeply saddened by what has happened and would request that if anyone has any information, please report it to the Bridgend police."

"The van is an important asset of the branch, and is regularly used in a number of outreach projects, to raise awareness and promote the vital services that Bridgend Samaritans provide to the population of Bridgend and its surrounding area."

He added: "Despite the theft, the dedicated FOTS team of volunteers still took to the streets of Bridgend on the Saturday. The branch has been assured that repairs to the van will be carried out as soon as possible."

Bridgend Samaritans is currently celebrating its 40th year of service in the borough, and regularly takes more than 10,000 calls from people, both within the borough of Bridgend and from around the UK.

Samaritans is still the only helpline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, that offers support to anyone struggling to cope.

Mr Osborne said: "Every penny raised helps Bridgend Samaritans to keep this vital service available."

Welsh rugby comes together to help prostate charity



Great names from the world of Welsh rugby were in Porthcawl last week to support a Welsh charity. (See page 31 for details).

'VILE, MERCILESS ASSAULT' ON A MOTHER OF TWO - says judge Woman (24) is jailed after Blaengarw attack

CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A MOTHER of two was so terrified she believed she would die, when a gang of two women and a man attacked her in a lane behind a pub.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Judge Daniel Williams described the assault as: "Vile, merciless and cowardly." It was, he said, an appalling incident and none of the trio appeared to be remotely sorry.

Natalie Dos Santos (24) of The Chase, Brackla, and Gavin Higgins (25) of King Edward Street, Bridgend, each admitted

assaulting Lisa Carpenter, causing actual bodily harm.

Kirsty Burgess-Sayce (23) of Lewistown, Rhondda, was found guilty of actual bodily harm.

Dos Santos was jailed for a total of 21 months, Burgess-Sayce was jailed for 10 months, the sentence suspended for 18 months, and ordered to carry out 240 hours unpaid work, and Higgins was jailed for nine months, the sentence suspended for 18 months.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

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MP cheques in with boost for charity



ABOVE: The cheque is handed over.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon visited the Bridgend Alzheimer's Society last week at Glanrhyd Hospital.

She reported: "I met again with the Alzheimer's team to present them with a cheque, from money earned completing parliamentary questionnaires and interviews, which they were surprised and delighted to receive.

"They are busy organising a series of six free Information Sessions for Carers living in the Borough to be held at Angleton Clinic in Glanrhyd Hospital, starting on Thursday, March 7. Please contact them on 01656 753754, if you are interested, and book a place.

"I heard how successful their café at Noltan Church Hall had

become and also their Singing for the Brain sessions had encouraged many who couldn't sing to come along and enjoy the positive benefits.

"Their new Side by Side befriending service is also now up and running, offering one-to-one and group befriending.

"The Bridgend Alzheimer's Society issues quarterly newsletters providing information about all their services, projects and forthcoming trips and social events."

For more information, contact the Alzheimer's Society, Angleton Clinic, Glanrhyd Hospital, Tondur Rd, Bridgend, CF31 4LN or email: bridgend-distric@alzheimers.org.uk Tel: 01656 753754 or visit their website: <http://alzheimers.org.uk>

Nurses aim to start a choir

SPECIALIST nurses at Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board are looking for a pianist or musical director to help them start a choir for women with post natal depression in Bridgend.

Choir practices will be held once a week, as part of the support the nurses provide for women who either have, or had, the condition.

"The role is voluntary, and doesn't require any qualifications. Anyone with experience of working within music, or

leading a choir, is welcome to apply," said Gail James, perinatal nurse specialist.

"We would love to hear from anyone who feels they can help make our choir an enjoyable hobby for our ladies. As well as working with women individually to help them on their road to recovery, many of our mums find group activities therapeutic as well.

"Our mums suggested we set up a choir, as it would provide them with an informal environment for them to meet other women with similar experiences."

For more information, contact Gail on 01656 752520.

QUIZ LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FIRST Division games went pretty much to form and Llangewydd Arms kept up their average by winning 53-47 at the Mackworth Arms.

Two others got into the fifties away from home: Tyrisha Nomads had 54 at the Six Bells who got 40, while Oldcastle A made 52 at Tondur Railway Club who scored 48.

In the other Division 1, game Tyrisha Royals did well to beat a good Crown Inn A side by 49 points to 46.

In Division 2, there was quite a surprise when Pheasant

Gamekeepers upset the form book, winning 54-47 against second place Cabo Roche 54-47.

At the Oldcastle, the B team were beaten by Coychurch Wanderers 48-43 and Pyle RFC's

luck doesn't change. They went down 46-31 away to Laleston Inn A.

The remaining game was unable to take place as Laleston Inn B could not fulfil the fixture, thus gifting two match points to Crown Inn B.

Here are your four teasers:

1. Who played the female lead in the film *Paint Your Wagon*?

2. Which group had a Number One hit in the 1980s with 'Under Pressure'?

3. In the 1990 Commonwealth Games, which English athlete won the men's 10,000 metres?

4. Which city is the administrative headquarters of Cumbria?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

4. Carlisle.
3. Eastman Martin.
2. Queen.
1. Jean Seberg.
ANSWERS:

Dog of the week: BAILEY

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

BAILEY is a lovely, gentle old boy and a real favourite with his carers.

He loves a gentle stroll (although he is still quite strong!) and then a good back scratch.

He is house-trained, fine to be left for a few hours, and good travelling. He'll need a quiet, adult-only home with an experienced owner used to large breeds.

Although he is OK to meet dogs while out on walks, he can be a bit grumpy on times, so would like to be the only dog in the home.

We would really like to see this older gentleman in the comfortable, loving home he deserves, to spend his twilight years in peace.

Please contact us on 01656 725219, if you think you could be the companion for him, or visit us at Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG (Tuesday to Sunday, 12pm-4pm). Linda Feagan, Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust Bridgend



BAILEY.

Sunday craft fairs
LAZY Sunday craft fairs: March 3, Pencoed Miners and Welfare Hall; March 17, Ynysawdre Community Centre; April 7, Coychurch Memorial Hall; April 28, Pencoed Miners and Welfare Hall.
Free admission to public; 12pm-3pm (call 01656 768253).

email your local news to: gemeditorial@tindle-news.co.uk

Motor Neurone Disease fight backed by BCBC



Pictured are: Molly Mallani, physiotherapist, Suzanne Ponting, occupational therapist, Kerry Bowen, nurse, Coun Lyn Morgan, Mayor Marlene Thomas, Amanda Aldridge, team manager, Stephanie Godfrey, speech and language therapist, Christine Jones, social worker.

BRIDGEND County Borough Council has pledged its support for a charter which recognises the rights of people living with Motor Neurone Disease and their carers.

Produced by the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association, the five-point charter sets out what good MND care should consist of and is designed to raise awareness and understanding of this devastating illness.

The news follows the recent presentation of an MND Association 'Extra Mile' award to the county borough's Community Independence and Wellbeing Team, which features staff from the council and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

To celebrate their award, the team were invited to a meeting of BCBC members and Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Marlene Thomas, in honour of their achievement and the sign up to the charter.

Molly Mallari, a physiotherapist within the community independence and wellbeing team, said: "The presentation within the council chambers served, not just as a recognition of our work, but also a confirmation of the council's commitment to help support patients with MND and their families. It's not very often we have an opportunity to bring the case of MND onto the spotlight; to be able to do this outside of the health practice arena is significant because the social impact of the condition is tremendous and equally devastating as its health impact."

Half of all people with MND die within 14 months of diagnosis – a rate of around five people each day. As this terminal disease can affect any adult at any age and with no known cure, the charter aims to ensure that people with MND and their carers can have access to timely and appropriate information, care and services.

The charter has already received endorsements from leading medical institutions such as the Royal College of General Practitioners, Royal College of Nursing, Association of British Neurologists and Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "MND is particularly cruel in that it is an incurable neurodegenerative disease which can make rapid progress. I have witnessed the difference that good services can make to the lives of people with MND, and I believe that anyone who has this devastating disease should receive support not only to maximise their quality of life, but to also enable

them to die with dignity."

Team manager Amanda Aldridge added: "The team were really moved by the acknowledgement of the councillors and the Mayor of the importance of integrated working. Their endorsement and support in signing the MND charter makes us proud of what we are trying to achieve."

"I am very honoured to be managing such a hardworking and committed team which not only supports individuals with MND but with other chronic complex conditions."

To find out more about MND or to sign the charter, visit www.mndassociation.org/mndcharter

Learning more about mental health

MENTAL health charity Gofal is to run an eight-week 'Mindfulness' programme in Bridgend, in association with 'Live In Mindfulness' (www.liveinmindfulness.co.uk)

The first session is on Friday, March 29, 1pm-3.30pm. A spokeswoman said: "The training is free and is aimed at anyone experiencing a mental health issue in the Bridgend area."

"We would also like to offer a small number of places to people who work in mental health services in Bridgend."

She continued: "'Mindfulness' is a mind-body based

approach that helps people change the way they think and feel about their experiences and has gained a lot of attention recently due to the evidence that it is combating depression and other mental health issues.

"It is also recommended in NICE guidelines in preventing the relapse of depression."

For more details, contact Julie Jones, Gofal, 2nd Floor, Derwen House, Court Road, Bridgend, CF31 1BN, telephone 01656 647722 or email: juliejones@gofal.org.uk for a registration form.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 28)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
21 Thur	02.58	7.3	15.34	7.4
22 Fri	04.07	7.8	16.33	8.0
23 Sat	04.53	8.4	17.17	8.5
24 Sun	05.32	8.9	17.54	9.0
25 Mon	06.08	9.4	18.28	9.6
26 Tues	06.41	9.7	19.04	9.9
27 Wed	07.17	10.1	19.38	9.8
28 Thur	07.55	10.1	20.14	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Gardens and cathedrals

AT Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild meeting, the constitution was read by Ann Barrett and the monthly Mansfield report from our twin guild was also given.

After we discussed our trips and lunches, we settled down to a wonderful presentation by Mr Brian Haberfield. We look forward to your next visit.

On a very grey and wet afternoon, we were transferred to some wonderful gardens and cathedrals with music to accompany. Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Haberfield. We look forward to your next visit.

The next meeting is on March 13 at All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Avenue at 2pm; all welcome. DR

Students learn about modern medicine from local consultant



Sister Gwyneth Poacher and Andy Thomas (left) with the Sandville students.

ANDY THOMAS, Consultant Urological Surgeon at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, recently gave his second annual lecture on prostate cancer to a student audience at the Sandville Self Help Centre, Tŷn Kenfig.

This academic year, there are 33 students registered at the Sandville, and it is the 10th. year for aspiring students from local comprehensive schools to on a Wednesday evening during the school year for on-the-job experience of medicinal and patient care.

The A-Level students are all volunteers and are planning to study courses in medicine or related services.

Some students also attend as part of the Prince's Trust and Duke of Edinburgh awards schemes.

At Sandville Court, the students help with the various tasks and chores at the centre. They also attend lectures given by guest speakers on a variety of subjects covering medicinal, nursing care and other related topics.

Sister Gwyneth Poacher introduced the guest speaker and said that Andy Thomas is a consultant urological surgeon at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, who specialises in the treatment

Report and pictures by KEITH E MORGAN.



ABOVE: A picture from last year's Prostate Cymru charity day at the Royal Porthcawl.

of prostate cancer.

As an expert in his field, Andy has lectured world-wide on his speciality.

He is also a founder member of the 'GLAZE' charity, a Prostate Cancer Charity which has recently been upgraded to National Charity status by the Charity Commission, Wales, and re-named Prostate Cymru.

The charity has recently launched its new 'Operation Robot' appeal for funding robotic surgery for Wales.

In his illustrated lecture, and in a relaxed manner, Andy explained that prostate disease is

common to males and kills around 11,000 men every year in the UK.

He explained what the prostate gland was, and its function, as well as covering the cause, effect and cure of prostate cancer.

He also expressed concern that although treatment has improved greatly in recent years, in Wales, we are still lagging far behind in the use of the latest technology.

Nevertheless, he explained that he had developed techniques for dealing with prostate cancer, involving Green Light Laser treatment, and the recent fascinating use of the da Vinci Remote Robotics Surgical System – Robotic Urological Surgery.

The latter system he pointed out is widely accepted as changing surgical procedures, which may improve both the patient's experience and surgical outcomes for prostate patients.

However, he expressed concern again that even though this sophisticated equipment

is now routinely used in hospitals in England, on mainland Europe and in the USA., it is not in Wales.

Even though we have highly qualified and trained surgeons, Wales does not have a single one of these highly sophisticated machines.

Following his successful ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro as part of the 'Captain's Team' to raise funds for GLAZE,

Andy listed a number of other appeals that had been carried out in aid of prostate cancer.

The next of these challenges is to take place later this year and is probably the most daunting. It is called 'Touching the Sun' and involves climbing five volcanoes in Ecuador, South America, the highest of which is 9,000 feet above sea level!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PENCOED WI!

PENCOED WI started in 2003 with 20 members, and now has 56 members.

At our February 12 meeting, we celebrated our 10 birthday with a party in the welfare hall, and we decided to take this literally.

A total of 44 members played games, including pass the parcel, where am I and name the nursery rhyme.

They then enjoyed a light tea of jelly and custard and a birthday

cake with candles, which were blown out by some of the original members. It was a fun afternoon.

The speaker on March 12 will be Dean Powell, talking about the life of Dr Price (of cremation fame).

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Welfare Hall, Pencoed, 1.45pm-4pm. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

Telephone Val on 01656 862181 or Pat on 01656 860289 for further information. PT

ALBANIAN WAS PAID TO GROW CANNABIS

WHEN police searched a house in Coity, they discovered 602 cannabis plants being grown on the premises.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that they were being looked after by an Albanian immigrant who had paid 5,500 Euro to come to the United Kingdom.

Dalip Reci (19) of no fixed address, but formerly of Castle Meadows, Coity, was sent to a young offender institution for 18 months.

He had been convicted by Vale Magistrates for producing cannabis and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Said Judge Eleri Rees: "Cannabis factories have become very common in this country. They spread unlawful drugs and misery and cause addiction.

"While I accept you

were the gardener, you played an important and valuable role. You were not intimidated or under any form of duress.

"You did it because you were going to be paid a significant amount of money."

Prosecutor Claire Pickthall said that on December 20, police officers were on patrol in Castle Meadows, and went into a property occupied by the defendant. He spoke a foreign language and used the word 'cannabis'.

Police then spotted a ventilation system, plastic sheeting and 602 cannabis plants. "It was a very sophisticated set up, and the plants were at different stages of growth," said Ms Pickthall.

Reci indicated he had come to the United Kingdom a short time before and had paid 5,500 Euro. He said he was told that if he looked after the plants, he would be paid three times that amount.

Each day, he said, he would water the plants. He also said he wanted to return to Albania.

His counsel, Claire Wilkes, said: "He had been working in London washing cars and was approached to do this job by someone. He had been in Britain just five weeks.

"He was promised money which he has not received. Because of his lack of English, he feels very isolated and when I spoke to him, he was in tears."

AJ SICLUNA

Police plea over rucksack



Contents of rucksack.

POLICE are appealing for information about the contents of a rucksack found abandoned in bushes on Mawdlam Road on the Dol Gorwel Estate in North Cernelly, in the early hours of Tuesday, January 29.

It was stolen from a vehicle in Llangwm Way, Porthcawl, over the weekend of January 27-28. However, the items

were not originally inside the rucksack when it was stolen. It is believed that they could be linked to other thefts at the time, which may have taken place between Porthcawl and North Cernelly.

Anyone who is able to identify any of the items is asked to contact Detective Constables John Doherty, or Jimmy Rees at Bridgend CID, on 01656 679518, or Crime-stoppers (anonymously) on 0800 555 111 and quote reference 62130028192.

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'Supermarket catastrophic for Maesteg' – WARNS REGIONAL AM

SHADOW Welsh Regeneration Minister Byron Davies has come out against allowing a new supermarket to be built on the former Revlon factory site in Maesteg.

He has warned that the consequences for Maesteg town centre, if that happened would be "catastrophic". Mr Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west, was one of those calling for the site to be cleared, after demolition was halted when asbestos was found.

He lobbied various bodies, including Bridgend County Borough Council, the Welsh Government and the Health and Safety Executive, about repeated delays in getting the work done.

Mr Davies has welcomed the fact that clearance work is now complete and has been told by the council that it is in

talks with the private owners of the site to see if the land can be redeveloped jointly with the adjoining Cooper Standard factory site, which the council owns.

"I fully support attempts to get this entire site developed as a single entity," he said. "But the council has informed me that it is being proposed that the land be put forward for mixed use under the new Local Development Plan (LDP) which is currently being drawn up.

"I would oppose any retail use being included in future development here. Rumours are rife in Maesteg that a leading supermarket wants to come to the site.

"I have no idea if that is true or not but no supermarket should be permitted to go there because of the catastrophic impact that this would have on Maesteg town centre where

traders are already struggling.

"At the moment, the council is spending £2m on redeveloping the outdoor market. It will be money down the drain if another supermarket was permitted in the town.

Maesteg already has four supermarkets which meets all the town's needs for food and convenience shopping.

"Putting any supermarket down by Revlon will take trade away from the town centre. No-one will walk from there to town so it will bring no trade in to the centre – just suck it out. It would be utter folly," he insisted.

Mr Davies said he would support mixed use of the site provided retail was not included. "But my preference would be to retain this land for industrial or employment purposes. The site has been industrial for over a century. It housed the old Oakwood Colliery until that closed in the 1930's and then after the war, factories were opened there including the old Louis Edwards sewing factory, Revlon and Silent Channel.

"What is needed in Maesteg is employment of all sorts. It would be nice to see this land developed imaginatively into small scale start-up units where new businesses could be located and given the chance to grow.

"We in Wales must stop looking for outside employers to come in – that's not going to happen any more. Instead, we must nurture the entrepreneurial talents of our own people by giving them somewhere to put their ideas into practice and create employment in the process. This site is ideal for that," he concluded.

New venture to support vulnerable families in the borough

A NEW initiative is being launched in Bridgend County Borough aimed at helping families and children affected by parental substance misuse and domestic violence.

BCBC will work in partnership with Neath Port Talbot and Swansea councils, as well as Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, to deliver the Western Bay Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS).

The aim of the Welsh Government-funded initiative is to safely reduce the number of children in care, help keep children with their families and reduce their reliance on public services.

It follows a Children in Need Census (CIN) which revealed that the main reasons why children receive support from social services is primarily because of parental substance and alcohol misuse and domestic violence. Nearly two-thirds of the families open to children's services in the Western Bay area meet the criteria for the service.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "This important project will help to transform the lives of some of our most vulnerable local families with substance misuse and domestic violence problems.

"By working together in this way, we are able

to pool our skills and expertise to help vulnerable families, especially children.

"It's an excellent opportunity for Bridgend County Borough Council and its partners to work in collaboration for the benefit of the community."

The project will take a 'whole family' approach by helping families recognise the need to change, as well as plan and achieve their own goals. The service has been designed to bridge the gap between children's and adult social and health services and ensure that information is shared so that the needs of the whole family are agreed and met.

IFSS also aims to provide a model of good practice and motivate the wider social care workforce to become more skilled by supporting and training staff.

Council Leader Mel Nott, said: "We are committed to providing support for the county borough's most vulnerable families as part of our wellbeing agenda.

"Collaborative working between the agencies is essential if we are to provide high quality support. Over the next year, we aim to help 100 local families across the Western Bay area, so we can help keep families together and experience safer and stronger communities as a result.

"This joint working approach should also result in significant savings for public service."

New website aimed at local volunteers

VOLUNTEERING Wales has launched a new website for volunteers to find opportunities in their area.

The site, www.volunteering-wales.net has been designed to give potential volunteers quick listings of the opportunities available in their area.

Organisations who need volunteers can also advertise their volunteering opportunities.

A spokeswoman said: "Volunteers can then make enquiries about the opportunities they are interested in by visiting their local Bridgend Volunteer Centre, Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations



A volunteer at Tenovus charity shop, Maesteg.

(BAVO) has more than 300 registered organisations with a range of volunteering opportunities.

"Through one-to-one informal interviews at their centre in their office in Maesteg and in a range of outreach premises throughout Bridgend county bor-

ough, your skills and interests can be matched with a vacancy that best suits you."

For further details, visit www.volunteering-wales.net or call your local Bridgend volunteer centre, telephone 01656 810400.

Porthcawl Bridge winners take a bow



Winners! Meskin Bowl: Peter and Sandie Jenkins, Janet Richards (chairman), Meskin Trophy: Emer Disley and Tony Haworth.

THE Porthcawl Duplicate Bridge Club held its main social event of the year on Thursday, February 14.

The Meskin Bowl was first presented in 1969 by Yetta Meskin, a prominent Porthcawl Bridge player, and has been held annually since, with the proviso that no person can win it twice, effectively making this the main club handicap trophy.

Alongside this, players compete for the Meskin Trophy – the scratch event – donated in 1989 by Rita Meskin, Yetta's daughter, and also a renowned local player (results below).

Other results are: Saturday, February 9: First, Hazel and Colin Heard; second, Trish Saunders and Janet Richards.

Monday, February 11: First, Tony Haworth and Gary Williams; second, Janet Richards and Dil Evans.

Thursday, February 14: Meskin Bowl (handicap), Peter and Sandie Jenkins; Meskin Trophy, first, Emer Disley and Tony Haworth; second, Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

The club meets three times a week, Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Rest Hotel (boardroom), 7pm–10.15pm. Visitors welcome at any time.

The next special event is the Welsh Bridge

Union St David's Day Simultaneous Pairs on Thursday, February 28. In this type of event, the same hands are played in most Welsh and British clubs with

effectively hundreds of competitors, and then scored centrally.

To contact the club, call our secretary, Trish on 01656785794.

TONY HAWORTH

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Kevin Lewis – 1 Lloyd Street, Maesteg – two storey kitchen/bedroom/bathroom extension.

The Range – The Range (ex MFI), Waterton Retail Park, Bridgend – two internally illuminated fascia signs and eight poster frames.

Mr Nigel Steele – land north of Whitehall, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend – six detached houses.

Mr Gareth Hando – 44/5A Corbett Street, Ogmores Vale – change of use of part of former post office/shop store room to residential use.

Rhonda Cynon Taff CBC – Abergoki Windfarm – OBS for scoping opinion for windfarm.

Mr and Mrs MJ Coombs – 30 Coed y Cadno, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend – rear single storey extension.

BCBC Healthy Living – The Berwyn Centre, Ogwy Street, Nantmoe – demolish existing building (application for prior notification).

Mr and Mrs David

Chilcott – 60 Pant Hirwaun, Heol-y-Cyw, Bridgend – new detached dwelling in side garden.

Mr Andrew Wood – 21 Parkfields, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend – first floor extension.

Mr Paul Stolzenberg – 29 Duke Street, Maesteg – detached garage to rear garden.

Mr Peter Shadis – 13 Longlands Close, Pyle – demolish existing garage and construct new single storey side extension.

Mr G Thorntorn – 6 Badgers Mead, Brackla, Bridgend – two storey extension – re-sub of P/12/717/FUL.

Mr D Evans – 13 Heol Maendy, Sarn, Bridgend – two bedroom house attached to existing terrace – re-sub of P/12/576/FUL.

Mr J Hughes – 1 Bryn Dryslwyn, Broadlands, Bridgend – three storey extension and basement extension to side and rear with internal alterations.

Say Hi to Jonesy!

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

JONESY is a 12-year-old cross breed (although it seems no-one has told him his age!)

He is a sweet little man, who really loves to play with his toys. Jonesy would like a

quiet home, with a secure garden to play fetch in. He is still quite active, so enjoys a couple of walks a day. He is affectionate and likes a fuss once he knows you and trusts you – he will be a friend for life!

Please pop in to visit Jonesy at Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend CF31 4NG or call us on 01656 725219. We have around 70 dogs here at any one time, so please pop in and see if we have a new friend here for you! LF



Student wins a £7,000 scholarship

A student at Harper Adams University, has been awarded a prestigious scholarship.

Kenna Murdoch (20) from Bridgend, is studying for BSc (Hons) degree in Agriculture with Marketing, and was awarded a British Poultry Council (BPC) Scholarship from Cargill Meats Europe.

The BPC aims to encourage more young adults into the poultry sector by offering 16 scholarships to second year degree students and first year FdSc students studying in agriculture or food production.

A condition of the scholarship is that the recipient must undertake their placement year with the awarding firm.

Kenna said: "I am extremely grateful to be

a recipient of a scholarship. Being able to pay my tuition fees whilst still studying is a big relief and having my efforts recognised by Cargill also gives me a great sense of satisfaction."

Kenna received the scholarship, worth up to £7,000, at the annual Harper Adams University development trust scholarship presentation.

Anthony Burgess, chairman of the trust, said: "This is the seventh year of awards. In 2006/07 we made 21 awards of £17,000. This year we made 99 awards of £225,000.

"I thank our sponsors, our professional team and the academics who give their time voluntarily. Finally, we come to our students. Well done and congratulations."

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OPERATION COULD TRANSFORM HER LIFE



EVIE BROAD.

A three-year-old girl, who dreams of being able to walk like her friends, is hoping to have a special operation in America.

Evie Broad was diagnosed a year ago with a form of cerebral palsy – 'spastic diplegia'.

Mum Zara explained: "The form of cerebral palsy Evie has affects her lower limbs, hips, knees, feet and ankles. 'Evie is able to walk independently, but has required pained boots in the past. At present, she has shoe inserts and is shortly going to be fitted with a knee support, as her knee is causing her problems."

Zara (30) and husband Jason (38) of Sully, are hoping that with the help of family, friends and supporters, they can raise the £60,000 necessary to send Evie to St Louis Children's

Hospital in Missouri which has a special centre dealing with cerebral palsy spasticity.

The first £40,000 will pay for the initial operation, the remaining £20,000 will cover the costs of a potential further operation, vital after-care and private physiotherapy.

Life is a struggle for little Evie, because she can lose her balance, fall and trip over easily. Sometimes she suffers pain, discomfort and tiredness.

But for Zara, it is particularly upsetting that she has to witness Evie's frustration.

"Even now at the age of three, Evie recognises she can't keep up with her friends."

"After many months of researching, we became aware of the operation in America called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR).

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

"SDR involves cutting some of the sensory nerve fibres that come from the muscles and enter the spinal cord."

"By Evie having the operation, it will reduce messages from the muscles, resulting in a better balance of the activities of nerve cells in the spinal cord, and will reduce spasticity."

"She should have a better future – better balance with the pain going. She is regarded as a perfect candidate for the operation."

So far, Zara and Jason's charity campaign has raised £20,000 – and that's only since last October.

EXHAUSTED

Zara said: "I worked so hard at raising funds, that I was exhausted and had to have a rest at Christmas."

However, she is quick to point out that it is thanks to numerous supporters that they are already at £20,000.

Among the many successful events, were a Zumbathon which raised £953; a 55-mile Taff Trail bike ride undertaken by Jason and his friends which netted £2,000, and a 'psychic night' at the Watermill in Ogmore-by-Sea, organised by Hands of an Angel which pulled in another £648.

Some of the money raised so far has enabled Evie to have a specialist splint, which has enabled her to walk better prior to having the operation scheduled for this May.

Zara and Jason, also parents to Ellie (11) and Sophie (8) who go to Sully Primary School, are inviting members of the community to join them at forthcoming fund-raising evenings.

On Friday, March 15, there will be a 'Band and Buffet Night' with live entertainment at The Seashore Grill in Sully starting at 7.30pm.

There's no dress code

and people must be 18 and over (tickets are £10)

A charity spring ball is being held on Saturday, March 23, at the Masonic Hall in Penarth.

The night is being hosted by the Capitol Radio Station; there will be a two-course meal, entertainment, and an auction (tickets £20, tables up to 10 people).

On March 26, The Seashore Grill will host a quiz night from 8.30pm.

The Broad family are highly motivated, but grateful for all the help that has been provided to help achieve Evie's dream.

If you want to attend any of the events, or would like to help, contact Zara on 07866

417066, or mail hopeforevie3@hotmail.co.uk Further information is available at www.hopeforevie.co.uk/; and on Facebook and Twitter.



A previous art walk on the seashore.

Chance for the artists to get close to nature

LOCAL artists are invited to Bryngarw House and Country Park in Brynmenyn, Bridgend, on Saturday, February 23 at 11am for a woodland art walk.

They can join a guided walk with the rangers, exploring the 113 acres of picturesque parkland, collecting natural materials along the way, and return to the visitor centre to create your very own Bryngarw sculpture in the form of a bird.

A spokeswoman said: "This event is suitable for all the family and will finish at approximately 1pm. Meet at the visitor centre, and admission and

car park are free of charge.

"Afterwards, warm yourself up at Bryngarw House and enjoy some light snacks and warm refreshments.

"Outdoor events can be weather dependent, so we advise you contact Bryngarw House on the morning of the event on 01656 729009, prior to starting your journey. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear."

Village hall AGM

Y N Y S A W D R E Village Hall AGM will be held on Thursday, February 28, at 6pm in the hall.

Read your GEM online - bridgend-today.co.uk

WORKSHOP ON POLICE

THE South Wales Safer Future Communities Network is organising a workshop to discuss the new Police and Crime Plan on Monday, February 25 at Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, CF35 5AW (3pm-5pm).

Details at <http://pcpworkshop/eventbrite.com/>

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Good Samaritan

MANY older people in Kenfig Hill were stuck in their houses and couldn't get out to the shop to buy basic items like bread and milk, during the snow and the freeze that followed.

Many of them have asked me to pass on a massive thank you to the person they describe as their 'angel,' Roz Peers, a young lady who works in the local Post Office shop.

Without being asked, she took them their morning papers, checked to make sure they were all right, and offered to do some shopping for them.

She also offered to do the same for me (I live on quite steep hill, and the pavements were covered with compressed snow which had frozen, making it dangerous), when she heard that I had fallen and broken my wrist.

In this day and age, there are very few younger people who would do this; so Roz, we thank you and salute you.

Festival Week

KENFIG HILL & Pyle Community Festival week will commence on June 22 with a concert in Pysgah Chapel at 7pm, the fun day starting at 1pm on June 29 and concluding with a community thanksgiving service in St Theodore's Church on June 30 at 7pm.

Proposed events during the Festival Week that have been confirmed are: Tang So Do demonstration in Pyle Life Centre on June 24 at 5.30pm, mini rugby (qualifying for Saturday's final) at Kenfig Hill RFC on June 25 at 5.30pm, a coffee morning to be held by the Adult Day Centre at the Pyle Life Centre at 11am and a social evening at Kenfig Hill Labour Club at 7.30pm on June 26, Showtime in the Talbot Community Centre on June 28 at 7pm, a Hog Roast provided by Harry's Baguette Shop and social evening in the KHRFC Club House at 7pm.

Pyle Community Council will again be running a Festival prize draw with the following prizes: 1st - £200, 2nd - £100, 3rd - £75 4th - £25. The local council must be commended for helping local organisations such as the Scout movement, churches, community centre, youth movements and mini

rugby to stay afloat by letting them keep all the money from the sales of the draw tickets.

All shops in the locality, including the Co-operative, will be invited to participate in the Festival Week by decorating their windows and shop fronts.

There will be more news about choosing the Festival Queen, arena events and competitions following the next meeting in March.

For information regarding the Festival Week, contact Gina Hooper on 01656 895504, or 07752 366241.

SHOUT

SHOUT was set up as part of the Strategy for Older People in Wales.

Regular meetings are held in the Bridgend, Kenfig Hill, Maesteg and Ogmere Valley areas. For further details of their activities ring Stan Rumble on 01656 741203, Liz Gibbs-Murray on 01656 667911 or Joyce Smith on 01656 734089.

Wellbeing Centre

ACTIVITIES being held by the Mental Health Matters, at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on February 27, will include a quiz from 3pm-4pm and the reading group from 3pm-4pm. There will also be a social afternoon.

Mynydd Cynffig Junior School

CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:

Sam Flanagan - Class 1, Morgan Rees - Class 2, Lowri Powis - Class 3, Theo Aubin - Class 4, Eithan Avery - Class 5, Lucy Clark - Class 6 and Kieran Thomas - Class 7. The Head Teachers Award went to Lik To Chung - Class 6.

Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour, including politeness to both staff and fellow pupils during lunchtimes last week: Chloe Parry, Ten Bateman, Matew Briggs, Alex Harman, Jack Joy, Thomas Llewellyn, Harry Sleath, Briney Griffiths, Jack Evans, Rhys Perry and Cai Downs.

The following pupils have been chosen house captains and vice-captains for the rest of the academic year:

Mynydd Tatalwyn: Captains: Liam Evans and Lowri Thomas - vice-captains: Jay Buckley and Taryn Matthews.

Mynydd Matgam: Captains: Thomas Rees and Charlotte Roberts - vice-captains: Jacob Hesketh and Megan Evans.

Mynydd Baeden: Captains: Ben Evans and Amy Ruck - vice-captains: Rhys Perry and Olivia Evans.

Mynydd Castell: Captains: Kieran Thomas and Eryn-Mae Franklyn - vice-captains: Lik To Chung and Lucy Clark.

Inter-school matches - Last week, the school played rugby and netball matches away to Litchard Primary School.

Maesteg Air Cadets gain BTEC award

FOUR Cadets at

631 (Maesteg)

Squadron Air

Training Corps

(ATC) have

obtained a Level

Two BTEC

Intermediate

Certificate in aviation studies.

Their certificates, awarded by Edexcel, recognise the effort they have put into studying and completing all the levels in the Air Training Corps training syllabus, and are equivalent to two GCSEs (A*-C).

The ATC training syllabus is studied on Squadron parade nights. Starting with the First Class qualification, the cadets then moved on to the Leading, Senior and Master Cadet exams that form the training syllabus in the Corps.

The four cadets, Sergeant Chris Raymond, Corporal David Lakin, Corporal Scott Mably and



Cpl David Lakin and Flt Lt Anthony Davies.

Corporal Dan Mably, are the first at 631 Squadron to be able to turn their ATC studies into a nationally recognised qualification.

Among the subjects studied were airmanship, map reading, expedition training, propulsion, radio communication and operational flying.

Cpl David Lakin (pictured receiving his award from Flt Lt Anthony Davies) said: "As an A level student this type of qualification will help me stand out when I apply to

University next year."

631 Squadron meet at Upper Street, Maesteg on Tuesday and Friday evenings and welcome boys and girls aged 13 and over, and also adults who would like to help.

Further information is available from: Flt Lt Stuart Morgan MA FCMJ Chartered FCIIPD RAFVR(T) ret'd, Deputy Wing Chairperson/Deputy Wing MCO, No 3 Welsh Wing ATC, The Grange TAC, West Cross, Swansea SA3 5AJ.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Netball: The 'A' team lost a close match by 4-3. However, the 'B' completely dominated their match winning by an impressive 20-0. The 'C' team held their own in their match drawing it 3-3.

Rugby: The 'A' team recorded impressive win by 21-17 with tries from Liam Evans, Ryan Evans and Ben Evans, who also converted three of them.

The 'B' team were also in impressive form, winning their match by 20-0 thanks to tries from George Buckley (2), Oliver Roberts and Joseph Hardwicke.

School Disco - Friends of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School have organised a disco for the pupils on February 28 from 6pm-7.30pm, £1 admission.

Pisgah Ladies

Cawl supper - The Pisgah Ladies Fellowship start their 2013 programme in aid of good causes, with a Cawl Supper on February 28 at 7pm.

For just £5 this is your chance to get away from cooking and the kitchen sink, have a night out in great company and chat over one of their famous suppers!

For details of this and other events they have planned, ring either Rhian on 01656 744772, or Karen on 01656 740684.

Stars in Your Eyes

THE annual 'Stars in Your Eyes' evening will take place in the Royal Oak Pub, Kenfig Hill on March 23.

This will be the 11th anniversary of this popular event, which has grown over the years and has unearthed some wonderful talent.

If you are keen to enter (all the equipment and backing tapes you require are provided) send your details to the pub, ring the Oak on 01656 740031 or phone Mark on 07968 394894.

As in previous years, all money raised from this event will be donated to the Sandville Self Help Centre.

Rugby reunion

KENFIG HILL RFC

(The Mules) have been

in existence for over

100 years and are currently

enjoying life in

Division 1 (West) in the

WRU SWALEC League competitions, having gained promotion in each of the last two seasons.

Numerous players have passed through the ranks, with many having gone on to achieve the highest honours in the game.

On Saturday, February 23, the management committee are staging their annual 'past and present players reunion' in conjunction with the Wales v Italy match at 1pm.

It is hoped that as many past and present players will attend and watch the game (kick-off 2.30 pm) on the big screen and reminisce over a pint or two. Refreshments will be available, however for further details or if you want to attend could you ring either Ray Giles on 01656 745252 or Ray Lewis on 01656 741771.

Community Council

THE following points of interest were raised at a recent Pyle Community Council Meeting.

Christmas Prize Draw 2012 - 3,000 books of raffle tickets were distributed, with only 400 being returned unsold. This will have resulted in the local organisations who sold them benefiting to the sum of £5,200.

Heathbridge Miners' Square - Planning permission is expected during February and the work should commence shortly afterwards.

Christmas lights - The clerk reported that 14 lighting features were sited during the Christmas period and he would meet Mr Steve Cottrell of BCB to discuss suitable replacements.

Recommendations for replacement lights will be brought back to Council for approval.

Donation - An acknowledgement was received from Kenfig Sands Lifesaving Club to say that following the donation they have now ordered their Life Support Back Pack.

Requests - Coun Gina Hooper requested that letters be sent to Chris Tossell and Andrew Davis both of Pyle Inn Way thanking them for taking it upon themselves to spread grit from the new grit bins in that road during the recent snow fall.

Bus Shelters - A discussion was held regarding the bus shelter on the A48, Pyle Road. It was said that this shelter is the most used and most viewed in the community and was without doubt the most unsightly.

It was agreed that Pyle Community Council would replace it with a new shelter.

Schoolboys call for better broadband



Alun Cairns MP, Luke Wybar, Robert Murray and Callum Wybar.

RECENTLY, schoolboys from Ogmere-by-Sea presented the Vale MP, Alun Cairns, with a petition calling for better broadband for their community.

Luke Wybar, aged 13, and his brother Callum and school friend Robert Murray handed over the petition which has more than 150 signatures from residents.

Luke has gathered the signatures from people who want a faster, higher capacity broadband service to help with school work, social media and to support business and home workers.

Mr Cairns will present the broadband to BT Openreach - the contractor appointed by the Welsh Government on the rollout of superfast broadband across Wales from the £50million made available by the UK government.

Mr Cairns said: "I'm really impressed by the

hard work by Luke, brother Callum and friends have put into gathering so many signatures.

"I have passed the petition on to BT Openreach and the superfast broadband project team at the Welsh Government.

"I was pleased to host the briefing session by BT on broadband roll-out for all Welsh MPs in Westminster recently and would urge everyone to register with the new website the BT superfast broadband roll-out team has created, to see the schedule of when your area will be targeted for improvement."

To find out more about the areas to be targeted, register with www.superfast-wales.com/home which has a postcode checker service for superfast broadband plans.

How Glyndwr talked his way into Coity castle

COITY Castle was constructed in the 12th century, although the first recorded date we have for the building is 1207, writes MANSEL JONES.

The original castle was probably built by Gryffydd, the fourth son of Iestyn ap Gwrgan, ruler of Glamorgan.

The location is unusual in that it was built on flat ground, even though there are several pieces of high ground in the vicinity.

When Robert Fitzhamon and his 'Twelve Knights of Glamorgan' invaded the county, c1090, one of those knights, Sir Payne Turberville, set his sights on the castle.

Sir Payne might have been a latecomer to the invasion, for the first mention of him in Glamorgan occurs in 1104.

Legend states that Sir Payne was offered two choices: fight for the castle, or marry Sara ferch Morgan, daughter of the local lord. Sir Payne decided on marriage and he became Lord of Coity, establishing a Turberville line that ran for 10 generations.

The legend of Sir Payne and Sara might hold a grain of truth; equally, it is possible that the story is based on Gilbert Turberville's marriage, c1195, to Malt, daughter of Morgan Gam, the Welsh

lord of Afan.

Whatever the truth of the legend, Coity Castle remained a home to the Turberville's for the following three centuries.

Architecturally, the castle consists of an inner ward, which lies to the east and is almost circular in shape, and a rectangular outer ward, which lies to the west.

A curtain wall surrounds the greater part of the inner bailey along with a moat. In the 14th century, new stone vaults replaced the timber floors and the central octagonal pier for these vaults can still be seen among the castle ruins.

Later, in the Tudor era, the great tower was modified with the addition of an abutting square turret, standing four storeys tall.

In 1384, Sir Lawrence Berkerolles inherited the Lordship of Coity. His mother, Katherine, the oldest surviving heir to the Turberville estate, had married Sir Roger Berkerolles of East Orchard.

Sir Lawrence was Lord of Coity when forces loyal to Owain Glyndwr besieged the castle in 1404-5, destroying the manorial mill.

The castle was damaged and evidence of the attack can still be found in the northern walls, which were rebuilt.

Legend states that Owain Glyndwr visited Sir Lawrence Berkerolles at Coity. It is said that he tricked his way into the

castle by speaking French, which was the language of the English noble court and Sir Lawrence assumed that Glyndwr was English.

When Sir Lawrence discovered the truth, the shock made him mute and he remained mute for the rest of his life.

Another legend surrounding Sir Lawrence Berkerolles states that he poisoned his wife. Whatever the truth of that story, it is known that Sir Lawrence died in 1411 and in that year Coity Castle was acquired by the Gamage family, owners of nearby Newcastle, after William Gamage had married Sarah, the youngest of four Turberville sisters.

In 1584, the incumbent lord of Coity, John Gamage, died and his heir, Barbara Gamage, married Sir Robert Sydney, Earl of Leicester.

The couple moved to Penhurst Palace in Kent, abandoning Coity. It was duly allowed to decay, although Barbara did return there later in life; she died at Coity Castle in 1621.

Today, the remains of Coity Castle largely date from the 14th century and they include the great hall, kitchen, buttery, pantry and a circular malting kiln.

Chimney stacks are also visible and they date from the Tudor era.

ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS COMPETITION Local schools' debating teams set for the final

Caption??

THE Rotary Youth Speaks area final competition was held in Bryntirion Comprehensive School Bridgend on January 12, when the teams competing in the senior section were from Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Maesteg Comprehensive School.

The evening was a great success and was enthusiastically supported by family, friends, teachers and Rotarians, who were rewarded by the excellent standard of public speaking presented by the students on the night.

It was a very close competition, but the Maesteg Comprehensive School team was the winner on the night, discussing the topic 'Can Science Bring Morality?'. The chairperson was Siobhan Walters, the speaker was Ewan Thomas and the proposer of the vote of thanks was Anabelle Rees.

Bryntirion Comprehensive came second with their discussion of 'Our Them and Us Society'. The chairperson was Amy Edwards, the speaker was Laura Thomas and the proposer of the vote of thanks was Sophie Keegan.

Awards for the best chairperson went to Siobhan Walters of Maesteg, the best speaker Laura Thomas, of Bryntirion, and the best proposer of the vote of



The Bryntirion team with Bridgend Rotary president, the Rev Mike Lewis.



The Maesteg Comprehensive team.

thanks was awarded to Anabelle Rees of Maesteg.

There was one team in the intermediate section - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynywyd. They offered a very interesting and entertaining topic for discussion - 'Television Talent Shows are Demeaning'.

The chairperson was Rhydian Smith, the speaker Ioan Lloyd and the proposer of the vote of thanks was Tesni

Morgan.

All students who took part in the competition were praised by the adjudicators for their performance.

The Maesteg Comprehensive team and the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg team will now go forward to compete in the Rotary District 1150 finals on Friday, March 8 at Cardiff Vale College. We wish them all great success in their future. WM



Two of the team from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynywyd.

WI members go on a 'cruise'

SKER WI met on February 14 at St David's Church Hall, Nottage when the president, Nina Charlesworth welcomed 46 members and three visitors to the meeting.

Members were reminded of future events - the GFWI council meeting and birthday supper in April. Members were busy rehearsing for the Link meeting in March; the craft group meet every Wednesday in the hall, along with the darts team, who are practising for the federation's darts tournament.

evening was Mr David Anderson, who gave a very interesting and entertaining talk on an 'Around Britain Cruise', with a slide show on the various ports of call.

Setting sail from Southampton, they called at Newcastle, Edinburgh, Lerwick, Liverpool, Belfast and The Channel Islands.

Next month's meeting will be on March 14, when Mrs Helen Jones will be talking about her life in the murder squad and Met Police.

Anyone wishing to know more about SKER WI could get in touch with secretary Cynthia Sidey, telephone 01656 786218.

BETTY GRIFFITHS

Get ready to browse at Bridgend Book Fair!

DESPITE the rising popularity of e-book reading formats, Bridgend Lions Club knows that the public have a love for the printed book.

Browsing on the internet can't replace the sheer pleasure of idly browsing real books.

With tens of thousands of books on offer, Bridgend Lions' huge three-day charity Book Fair once again offers booklovers the chance to browse to their heart's content, to thumb through over a cuppa and buy pre-loved books at bargain basement prices.

The annual event is eagerly awaited by hundreds of regular customers, who will find an enormous variety of thrillers, romances and sci-fi paperbacks.

Children, particularly, will love the vast range of kids' and teen books.

Hobbyists, cooks, history lovers, etc and those looking for special interest books are well catered for with the colossal choice of top quality non-fiction books covering virtually every imaginable subject. There's something for everyone.

As usual, the Book Fair is being held at the YMCA, Angel St, Bridgend CF31 4AD. Doors are open from 9am to 4pm on Friday, March 1 to Sunday, March 3.

Admission is free and all profits are donated to local charities and causes.

Bridgend Lions would like to thank its many supporters for their marvellous generosity in donating books for the Fair.

For more details, go to: bridgendlions.org.uk or follow the club on facebook and twitter.

HENRY TRIMLETT
(Lions Club of Bridgend)

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycod1@yahoo.co.uk



WI meeting

EUNICE WILLIAMS, president of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute, welcomed the ladies to the recent second meeting of the new year.

Eunice went on to cover the full programme, including a fashion show in Mumbles. The Pen-y-Fai link social evening will be on March 22 at Archbishop McGrath Catholic School in Brackla. The speaker will be Jayne Ashton.

Glamorgan Country markets will re-open in Cowbridge on March 1 and will be open on the first and third Fridays until December (9.30am to 11.30am).

The Glamorgan Federation Council meeting will be in Porthcawl Grand Pavilion on April 29, when the speaker will be Adam Henson, BBC presenter on the TV programme 'Countryfile'.

The speaker was Louise Evans, a personal shopper/stylist who works with shoppers to give them free advice about what colours and styles suit the customer best.

Louise selected one of the members, Irene for her demonstration, who is dark-haired and dark-eyed and Louise put a series of colour swatches next to her face and neck to determine which colour scheme suited her best.

The colours fall into spring, summer, autumn and winter collections. Irene was a winter person which means she looks her best in colours with a blue tone to them.

A vote of thanks was given by Eunice. The raffle was won by Dilys Mitchell and the competition for an item beginning with the letter 'E' was won by Mair Starr with an elephant ornament.

The next meeting is on March 13 at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. The speaker will be Audrey Griffiths whose subject will be 'Most Peculiar People' and the competition will be for an item beginning with the letter 'L'.

For more information, call Pat Lewis, secretary on 01656 721933, or www.cobwebs.co.uk

Chorus AGM

BRACKLA Community Chorus recently held its Annual General Meeting in Bridgend Community Centre, opened by Geraldine Player, the chairperson.

Geraldine presented her report to and then gave a brief resumé stating the choir had two successful summer and Christmas concerts with guests from Archbishop McGrath RC School, performing to full houses.

In May, the choir performed a charity concert at the Bible Church, Aberkenfig with the Pencoeed Silver Band, 'Champagne Flutes', and a school percussion band from Merthyr. The concert was held in aid of Velindre Hospital at Cardiff and it raised over £700.

In June, the choir lost a long-standing choir member Dennis Wicks after a short illness, who is greatly missed.

In July, the choir sang at a number of local care homes in the Bridgend and Porthcawl area. Two long-standing members of the choir, Eric Jowett and Margaret Dunlop decided to retire, and everyone was sorry to see them go.

During the autumn and winter term the choir again sang at care homes in the Bridgend area, ending up singing at the Coychurch Higher Community Council's Christmas carol service at Heol y Cwch chapel.

The choir continues to be grateful to musical director Gillian Ridout and Gareth Waite, accompanist, without whom the choir could not continue. The choir accepted the chairperson's report and a vote of thanks was given by Sandra Smith.

Treasurer Valerie Moore stated that due to two very successful concerts during the year, the choir had been self-financing and had covered all overheads.

Then came the election of officers for 2013: Chairperson Geraldine Player was standing down and the new chairperson was Mr John Dunlop. The vice-chair Ann Price, secretary Roger Jones and treasurer Valerie Moore and all general committee members were re-elected unopposed.

The choir has welcomed a number of new members this year, but is always on the lookout for more. An ability to read music is not essential and no audition is required. Go along any Wednesday evening from 7pm-9pm at the above centre.

Ogmore choir

OGMORE Valley male voice choir is once again holding a St David's day concert on March 1 at 7pm in the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale.

Appearing with the choir will be two guest choirs, Cantorian Coety mixed voice and Garw Valley ladies.

The concert is titled 'Cawl a Chân' (Soup and Song) and included in the entrance cost will be a culinary feast of homemade cawl, Bara Brith and Welsh cakes! Tickets are available from John on 01656 841429, or any choir member.

The choir rehearses at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre on Thursday evenings. Visitors and prospective members welcomed.

Church concert

THERE is a St David's day concert at Aberkenfig Bible Church in Heol Persondy starting at 7pm.

Music will be provided by the local male choir Bois Goytre-Hen a'r Cylch.

Ladies sing

CÔR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies Choir) is performing in a concert in the Celtic Club, Garth on March 2 at 7pm, joined by Cor Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch.

Tickets £5, can be obtained from Ruth on 01656 733581. It rehearses at the club on Wednesday evenings at 7pm; visitors and new members welcome.

Carers' centre

BRIDGEND Carers Centre at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ, telephone 01656 658479, offers home visits or one-to-one support in the centre.

It has weekly drop-ins providing information and advice on local services, and there are regular surgeries provided by Macmillan welfare benefits and Howells Solicitors, to support carers struggling financially or who require a free session with a legal expert.

It also organises monthly walks, book reading sessions, days out to places of interest. Tomorrow February 22 there will be a guided tour around Cardiff museum, with information provided by Tom Sharp.

Residents' association

AT the youth wing in Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen members of the Ynysawdre Elderly Residents Association joined students from the school in a number of activities, among them was a friendly discussion sharing the experiences of both sides in the community.

Mrs Betty Samuel related the history of Ynysawdre. There were practical workshops, one on poetry led by professional poet, Rhian Edwards; another on art headed by David Annand, the artist commissioned to design the artwork in the new college buildings.

Mr Gareth Jones, chairperson of the association, thanked Emma Davies, Bridgend BCB liaison officer and her colleagues for arranging the event.

Hunger lunches

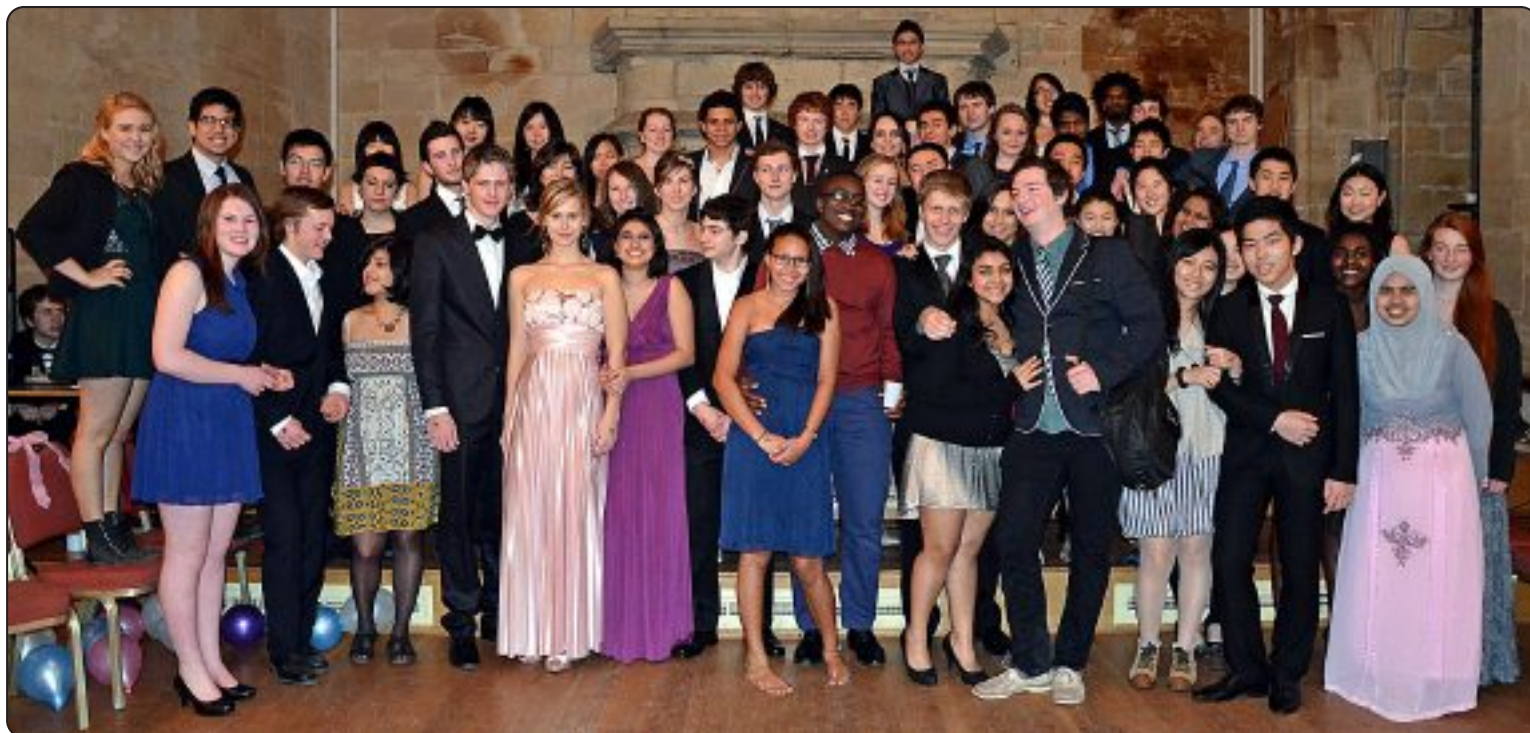
IN support of the charity Christian Aid, a lunch consisting of a bowl of soup, bread and a Welsh cake will be provided at the following churches: All Saints Church, Pen-y-Fai which will be held in Smyrna chapel hall on Saturday, February 23; Nazareth chapel, Brynceithin, Saturday, March 2; St John's church, Aberkenfig, March 9; Smyrna chapel, Pen-y-Fai, March 16 between 12noon and 1.15pm.

Services cancelled

THE road between Blackmill and Glynogwr will be closed on every Sunday in March, and as a result the following Sunday services at St Tyfodwg's Church, Glynogwr will be cancelled: March 3, 10, 17 and 24.

There will be an alternative Eucharist service in the church at 10am on March 2, 9, 16 and 23.

SCHOOL PROM IS AN INTERNATIONAL OCCASION FOR ATLANTIC COLLEGE



Photographs
by
ANDY WICKS

THE American tradition of the 'High School Prom' has taken over in the UK in recent years, and the students in Atlantic College have embraced it as well!

Given its international student body, it meant that there was a huge variety of dress style on show as everyone threw down for the evening.

Photographer Andy Wicks was invited along to take photographs, as the students entered into the party spirit.

They also provided their own musical entertainment for the evening!



'Two out of three ain't bad!'

Llancarfan and Llanfair schools are safe – but Oakfield must wait

PRIMARY schools in Llancarfan and Llanfair are safe and will not be closed, but Oakfield in Barry will have to wait and see.

After a quite extraordinary week when the potential headline for this piece went from 'Promising news for threatened schools' to 'Good News for threatened schools' – finally there came a series of statements from the Vale Council that can only be interpreted as a removal of the waiting axe.

Both the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, and the cabinet member member for children's services, Coun Chris Elmore, have now stated that they will oppose closing the schools when the council cabinet meets to discuss the

matter. In his column today, (see page 13), Coun Moore says: "I do not support the closure of either the Llanfair or Llancarfan Schools for many reasons and I hope that cabinet will come to this decision."

Coun Elmore issued a similar statement so, it means that the only danger now for Llancarfan and Llanfair is if Coun Moore and Coun Elmore are outvoted by their cabinet colleagues.

Stranger things have happened, but probably only in a parallel universe.

Vale AM Jane Hutt is certainly interpreting it as a done deal. She issued a statement saying: "I am delighted that the cabinet member for children's services, Coun Chris Elmore, has decided not to accept proposals put forward by the education and lifelong learning scruti-

ny committee, to close Llancarfan and Llanfair schools. These schools are providing good and effective education in their communities in the rural Vale. I would like to thank all those who have contacted me with their views, which I have shared with the Vale Council".

So, after all the protest letters in last week's GEM (and this week's), is it time for the parents and governors to take down the 'Save our School' websites?

Since the furore blew up, Coun Chris Elmore has held meetings at first Llanfair and then Llancarfan. At those meetings, he said he was "mindful" to reject the school closure report. Parents and governors at both schools went away encouraged, but were still gearing up for a fight.

Alan Bourne, the vice-chair at Llanfair Primary School governors, said: "Initial anger and despair were funnelled into determination, and the formation of the Save Llanfair School Action Group."

He said teams of parents were researching not just educational statistics (Llanfair is one of the top-performing primary schools in Wales) but also Vale Council building and development plans.

He said: "The school family is very aware that this will be a marathon and not a sprint, and will need the support of the entire community, if we are to keep this superb, fully subscribed school open."

"There will be a full

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

and open public meeting at the school at 6pm on Wednesday, February 27, where the full impact of the council's plans for the school, and how it will affect our communities will be discussed."

Jill Davies, the chair of governors at Llancarfan Primary School, spoke to The GEM shortly after the school's meeting with Coun Elmore.

She said: "He told the meeting that he would recommend that the school stays open, and that he is firmly against closure."

"When asked why he felt that way, he replied that standards of performance at Llancarfan are high, and that was reason enough. Coun Elmore said that he would personally review as many of the consultation responses as he was able."

She continued: "Representatives of the school are delighted to have Coun Elmore's support, and to know that the hard work and significant achievements that the school has made have been recognised."

"Llancarfan Primary School is in the top three per cent of schools in Wales, in terms of performance, according to both the school's Estyn inspection report and the recent annual report from Estyn."

"The school is also out-performing the Welsh Government's target of 10 per cent surplus places."

Vale MP Alun Cairns

exemplary performances as top performing primaries in Wales.

"However, I am disappointed that he hasn't confirmed his views regarding the future of Oakfield Primary in Gibbonsdown."

"I hope he will give equal priority to the Barry primary school. The silence regarding Oakfield is causing many parents and children a great deal of worry."

FocusBARRY supporters have called for a public protest against the plans to close Oakfield, and this will be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday, March 6, outside the Civic Offices in Barry.

Mr Cairns said that if

Llancarfan and Llanfair were deprived, he wanted total transparency about the decision.

He said: "To guarantee the long-term future of our schools, we need to see a list of the formal reasons why the proposals were rejected by the council."

"This will be vital evidence, should they change their mind again in a year or two."

"There is also a need for parents to be aware about the council's plans to change the feeder school policy for the Vale, which will undermine the status of the schools and runs the risk of leading to a fall in the schools' intake."

Jill Davies said that this was a concern for

Llancarfan governors. She told The GEM: "Whatever happens, we will be focusing our attention on the feeder schools issue."

"There is a real conflict here, because the Vale Council, in its letter to parents, referred to the feeder school system as out-dated."

"However, Estyn, in our opinion, does not share that view, and has emphasised that good links between a primary school and a secondary school are very much to be desired."

"We have that in our relationship with Cowbridge and we feel this really is a case of 'If it isn't broken, why fix it?'"

Woman jailed

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He was also ordered to carry out 240 hours unpaid work and to pay £500 compensation to the victim.

Prosecutor James Wilson said that on July 2, 2011, the three attacked Miss Carpenter, punching and kicking her.

It all began in the Charter Club in Blaengarw, when someone threw a cake at a customer.

Bar staff ordered Dos Santos to leave, and she became abusive.

Outside, she said to Carpenter: "It's your **** fault I'm banned."

She kicked Miss Carpenter who screamed for help.

"She was so terrified she thought she would die. All three were involved in the attack, striking her to the head and face."

Her injuries included scum marks, swellings and grazes.

The victim requested the court make a restraining order because she said she was in fear of even going to a local shop, with the possibility of having contact with the defendants.

"She was concerned and nervous about going about her everyday life," said Mr Wilson.

The judge said the three were extremely lucky not to be facing a more serious charge.

Dos Santos was said to have convictions for causing actual bodily harm, robbery and driving with excess alcohol.

She had been stopped

in Bridgend after an accident and was found to be three times over the legal alcohol limit.

She told the police: "I'm off my face, I've taken lots of drugs. I can't even remember driving. I thought I was playing 10-pin bowling."

She had been drinking vodka, cider and wine and taking drugs.

She was also in breach of a suspended sentence for robbery involving headbutting a woman and kicking her 20 times.

Higgins was said to have convictions for assault and Burgess-Sayce a public order offence, causing damage and shoplifting.

Byron Broadstock for Higgins said that he had good job prospects, was a good father and had turned his life around.

Hilary Roberts for Burgess-Sayce said she had had a difficult upbringing and had been taken into care. She was involved in the attack out of misguided loyalty.

Owen Williams for Dos Santos said: "There must be concern at the level of her violence. She hopes to rebuild her life."

The judge made a restraining order on each defendant preventing them from contacting the victim, and he also disqualified Dos Santos from driving for a year.

He said the three hatched a plan to assault their victim.

Public meeting on threat to Princess of Wales hospital

A public meeting is being held today Thursday, February 21 at Llantwit Major, into the vexed issue of hospital services at the Princess of Wales hospital in Bridgend.

Local councillors fear potential downgrading of services could affect people in the western Vale.

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, on the other hand, has emphasised that no decisions have been made with regard to the hospital.

The public meeting will take place at Llantwit Hall and starts at 7pm.

Coun Ann Matthews, the Mayor of Llantwit Major, who helped to

organise the meeting, told The GEM that she hoped it would be well attended by people from Llantwit Major, St Athan and the surrounding villages.

"The more people that attend, the more we can gauge the strength of public feeling and do something about it."

"People have lots of concerns, and there is a lot of speculation and so this is an opportunity to record those concerns."

Coun Matthews pointed out that people tended to go to the hospital closest to them and that was why people in Llantwit Major favoured going to Bridgend, when they could go to the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board has emphasised that no deci-

Michael is first in as Fat Face store opens to public



ABOVE: The first business to move into new shop units opposite Waitrose in Cowbridge is now trading, after opening its doors last Friday (February 15). One thing that stood out from that opening day is that the staff at fashion retailer, Fat Face, are all pretty young! They are pictured with the store's very first customer, Michael Wilks, and his dad Jon. (PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK).

Macmillan's 'Not Alone' campaign for cancer patients

I AM writing to highlight new research by Macmillan Cancer Support which suggests that almost one in five people diagnosed with cancer in Wales each year lacks support from family and friends.

Our research suggests that 19 per cent of the 18,000 newly-diagnosed cancer patients in Wales – an estimated 3,420 people every year – lack support from loved ones and friends during their treatment and recovery.

Macmillan's Facing the Fight Alone report, which looks at the number, profile and experiences of isolated people living with cancer, found more than half (53 per cent) of health professionals have had patients opt not to have treatment at all, due to a lack of support at home from family and friends.

Nine in 10 (89 per cent) health professionals felt that a lack of support at home leads to a poorer quality of life for patients, while over half felt that it can lead to poorer treatment decisions

(54 per cent) and a shorter life expectancy (56 per cent).

As the number of people living with cancer in Wales is set to double from 120,000 to 240,000 by 2030, isolation will become an increasing problem and we need to address this now.

Last week, Macmillan Cancer Support launched our Not Alone campaign to help tackle this crisis and to ensure that in future, no-one faces cancer alone.

People affected by cancer can receive information and support by calling the Macmillan Support Line on 0808 808 00 00 between 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday, or by visiting www.macmillan.org.uk.

People who wish to support Macmillan and help to raise funds for us to provide our vital services to help those affected by cancer can call our Fundraising Support Centre on 0300 1000 200.

Susan Morris, Pencoed, General Manager for Wales, Macmillan Cancer Support,

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COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF MEN IN THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

‘Britain’s Merchant seamen never faltered’

OUR ships and men have borne the brunt of every successful defence of our islands.

The safety and defence of the British Isles throughout history has been founded on successful deployment of both our Royal and Merchant Navies around, not only our shores, but all over the world, right up to the end of the Second World War and in or out of conflict to date.

Karl Dönitz was a German naval commander during World War II. He advocated a strategy of attacking only merchant ships, targets that were relatively safe to attack.

He pointed out that destroying Britain's fleet of oil tankers would starve the Royal Navy of supplies needed to run its ships, which would be just as effective as sinking them. This would also have starved Britain.

During the First World War, the Merchant Service suffered heavy losses from German U-boat attacks. A policy of unrestricted warfare meant that merchant seafarers were also at risk of attack from enemy ships.

In honour of the sacrifice made by merchant seafarers during the First World War, King George V granted the title 'Merchant Navy' to the service.

The Prince of Wales was made the Master of the Merchant Navy, a role handed down to the present Sovereign.

In the two wars, Barry was an important seaport for our war effort and our allies, the Americans. During the Second World War, Barry was one of the few ports allowed to load explosives from the docks, and was also used extensively by the American Army. British and American troops increased and eventually vehicles, equipment and troops left Barry Docks en route to Normandy.

This year will be especially important, as it was in 1943 that the eventual outcome of the Battle of the Atlantic was largely determined. This May, the Merchant Navy and the Royal Navy are to join in marking the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

The date has been chosen because it was in that month, in 1943, that better deployment of technology and intelligence finally turned the tide against the wolf packs. It was a pivotal moment, which allowed the logistical build-up that would ultimately lead to the success of D-Day.

During the 'Year of the Convoy' it is intended to look further behind the names of those recorded on our local



BARRY DOCK, CIRCA 1940.



THE RED DUSTER.

monuments and in our Roll of Honour.

The month of February in years 1940-45:

The *SS Loch Maddy* was en route from Vancouver and Victoria BC for Leith, when she was torpedoed to the east of Orkney by the German submarine U-57 on February 21, 1940, but didn't sink.

She was taken in tow but at 1.09 am on the 22nd, she received another torpedo, this time from the German submarine U-23, commanded by the famous U-Boat commander Otto Kretschmer.

The torpedo broke her in two. The bow sank but the stern was towed away and beached in Ingness Bay in the Orkneys, and the cargo salvaged.

She was carrying 2,000 tons of wheat, 6,000 tons lumber and aircraft. Four crew were lost, from a total crew of 39. Local man Herbert Henry Phipps, son of E Phipps, and of Ada Phipps, of Barry, was a casualty; 35 survivors were picked up by the destroyer *HMS Diana* and landed at Scapa Flow.

A local resident, Abdullah Ali, perished on February 23, 1941. His ship, the *SS Cape Nelson*, was hit by a torpedo from U-95 and sank by the bow within seven minutes.

On the same day, more local men were lost: David W Jones, Mohamed Sali and Frederick W Tagoe, crew members of the *SS Marslew*, sank by U-69 about 300 miles north-northwest of Rockall.

On February 26, Joseph George was lost from the *Llanwern*, attacked in an air raid 27

of the crew were killed.

A day later, February 27, 1941 saw the loss of local men Edgar Pritchard and Leslie Wharrard of the British steamship *Baltistan*, torpedoed and sunk by Italian submarine

Michele Bianchi about 400 miles west of Valentia Island, Ireland.

Fifty-one of her complement of 69 were killed. On the same day, Frederick Izzard was lost; his ship was the *Empire Tiger* which foundered about 30 miles south of Iceland.

February 1, 1942 would see the loss of John Henry Moore of the *Tacoma Star* which was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-109 – and a few days later, on February 6, Albert E Smith from the torpedoed *SS Opawa*.

February 10, 1942 saw the losses of Thomas W Phillips and James Yeoman, crew of the *LT Robert Mory*.

The steamer was damaged by German bombing five miles west of Trevoose Head.

Trevor Davies was lost from the *SS Adellen* on February 22, 1942. The enemy U-155 fired three torpedoes at the convoy ONS-67 south of Cape Farewell. Adellen and another ship, the Norwegian *MV Sama*, were hit and sunk.

February 1943 saw the sinking of the *SS Harmala*.

On the seventh day of the month she was torpedoed by German submarine U-614 when south east of Cape Farewell and about 750 miles west of Ireland. Local men Arthur Farley and Stefan Lonnberg were lost.

The cargo ship Pacific left Sunderland on February 7, 1943, in

convoy for London, carrying a cargo of coal. The convoy became scattered in bad weather during the night of the 8th, and at daybreak on the 9th, the Pacific and two other ships had disappeared.

She carried a crew of 38, including local men John L Benson, William L Betts and Geoffrey Norman Lake.

On February 27, 1945, the *SS Sampa* was en route from Antwerp to England, when she struck a mine at 17h12, off Ostend. Part of the portside of the ship was torn away; 15 minutes after the explosion, *SS Sampa* disappeared below the waves, taking with her 12 crew, including local man Walter D Macleod. The rest of the crew was saved by *HMS Middleton*.

"Let those who come after, see to it that his name be not forgotten"

On October 30, 1945 the Houses of Parliament unanimously carried the following resolution expressing gratitude to the Merchant Navy on the victorious end of the war:

"That the thanks of this House be accorded to the officers and men of the Merchant Navy for the steadfastness with which they maintained our stocks of food and materials; for their services in transporting men and munitions to all battles over all the seas, and for the gallantry with which, through a civilian service, they met and fought the constant attacks of the enemy."

The Right Honourable Alfred Barnes, Minister of War Transport said: "The Merchant Seaman never faltered".

KEITH GREENWAY

'NO HORSE DNA WAS FOUND IN OUR FOOD' - say local county councils

THE two councils that cover The GEM's circulation area – the Vale Council and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) – have both issued statements as a result of the horse meat in processed food scandal.

In a statement, the Vale Council declared it had a clean bill of health.

It said that no traces of horse DNA had been found in food supplied by the council's catering service.

The statement said that tests had been carried out on products available at schools, day centres, lunch clubs and care homes, and those tests confirmed that no equine DNA was present in the beef products supplied to the council.

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of Vale Council, said: "We understand that residents may have concerns in light of the recent revelations that horse meat has been discovered in beef products in some outlets across the UK."

"Tests have been carried out to verify

by PHILIP IRWIN

that meat products supplied by the council do not contain horse DNA. We can assure residents that our catering service is unaffected.

"We will continue to monitor this situation closely."

The BCBC statement said: "The council purchases food supplies alongside other local authorities as part of the Wales Purchasing Consortium and also uses an external company to carry out regular food audits on

suppliers.

"Following recent media coverage of horse meat being found in certain supermarket products, our meat suppliers have been required to carry out 'traceability' exercises and provide detailed confirmation on all meat served at facilities including schools and residential care homes.

"The majority of our suppliers have already completed this

process, and to date no health issues have been identified, but any supplier who is unable to provide this information by the deadline of February 22 will be automatically suspended.

"At the same time, random sampling of meat products provided under the consortium arrangement is being carried out and we are liaising closely with the Food Standards Agency."

WELSH CHAT

A WELSH language and chat group meets on the last Thursday of every month from 8.30pm at the West End Social Club, St Nicolas Road, Barry.

A spokeswoman said: "It is a welcoming and easy going group. Whether you are fluent, learning or just want to brush up, all are welcome – for more information contact Anna on 07931849258."

S g w r s

Cymraeg MAE grwp sgwrsio Cymraeg yn cwrdd ddydd lau olaf pob mis o 8.30yn yn Glwb Cymdeithasol y West End, St Nicolas Road, Y Barri.

Grwp croesawgar a llac. P'un a ydych yn rhugl, dysgu neu ddim ond eisiau i ymarfer mae croeso i bawb – Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch ag Anna ar 07931849258.

Birthday surprise!



Mrs Janne Hill with Rev Adelaide Wheeler-Cocks and children from Sunday school.

MRS JANNE HILL, a popular member of Bethania Presbyterian Church, Pendoylan, had a big surprise when visiting Pendoylan Memorial Hall following last Sunday morning service, to discover her husband Anthony, assisted by family members

Rachel and Andrew, had organised a luncheon party to celebrate her 70th birthday.

Having only just returned from their winter break in Portugal, Janne was taken by complete surprise to see a packed hall greet her arrival, including members of the Sunday school.

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If weather is mild, occasionally cut the grass, maintaining about 25mm of growth. Keep off the grass if frozen or waterlogged.



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VALE YOUNGSTERS FLOCK IN TO BUILD NESTING BOXES...



William and Myles, with Dai the Owl.

THERE are an estimated five to six million nest boxes in gardens across the UK, but now Rangers at Cosmeston Lakes Country Park are hoping to have added a few more, after the park hosted a special event last weekend to celebrate National Nest Box Week.

The Rangers held a nest box making session on Saturday (February 16) to coincide with National Nest Box Week (NNBW) from February 14-21.

The event proved a real crowd-pleaser as the park's rangers, Steve, Aaron and Sharon were greeted by more than 40 children, all eager to try out their DIY skills by making their very own nest box.

Owls4U also came along to the event, impressing the nest-box-makers with a display and fascinating talk about their rescued owls, Merlin, Dai and Honey.

Ranger, Aaron Jones, said: "We hold this event every year at Cosmeston and it's always popular with queues of children waiting to build a nest box. It's great to see the children taking an interest in the wildlife."

The aim of National Nest Box Week, which is now in its 16th year, is to encourage people to put up nest boxes in their local area or gardens in order to create safe homes in which the birds can breed.

It is hoped that the creation of extra nests will promote biodiversity and conservation of breeding birds and wildlife.

CARE AND REPAIR

AGE CONCERN Cardiff and Vale's Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, is holding a series of topics: health, home and monetary needs, and Care and Repair will be at the Senior Health Shop on February 28 (10am-12 noon) to give advice.

Further information from the Shop (telephone 01446 732385).

New ambulance chief hears of Vale concerns



THE new ambulance chief for the Vale, Bob Tooby, recently met the Vale AM Jane Hutt and Coun Gwyn John of Llantwit Major, to hear their concerns about access to ambulance services in the western Vale.

Accompanied by the Chair of the Welsh Ambulance Trust, Stuart Fletcher, they were told that this was a new appointment for a senior officer to manage Cardiff and the Vale ambulance services.

Ms Hutt reported: "With some welcome

new developments, including the deployment of senior paramedics in the Vale, the meeting provided a useful update on response time in the Vale, a dis-

cussion about increased pressure on the ambulance services, and the importance of serving the growing needs of the western Vale.

Pictured at the meeting - Jane Hutt AM, Coun Gwyn John, Stuart Fletcher and Bob Tooby.

New choir's first concert

THE inaugural concert of 'Caritas', the new Vale Chamber Choir led by founder and director, Lindsay Gray, will be held in the magnificent medieval setting of Ewenny Priory Church on March 7 at 7.30pm.

The concert includes Allegri's famous and exceptionally beautiful Miserere, for many years heard only in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, and recently featured on the BBC TV Westminster Abbey documentary.

It will be accompanied by a range of superb short pieces of choral music focussing especially on the 16th to early 18th centuries.

This first concert of Caritas in an exciting and imaginative presentation in which the choir of 22 singers will be making full use of all three sections of one of the finest churches in south Wales.

Conductor, Lindsay Gray, was formerly head of Llandaff Cathedral School, and Director of the Royal School of Church Music.

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'No plans to close two schools in the Vale'

AT the council meeting of January 23, it was agreed that the Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP), agreed by the previous administration in January 2012 and then published for public consultation, should not be progressed any further and that work should commence on a replacement Deposit LDP.

We will be reporting and consulting on the progress made on our replacement Deposit LDP in the near future. The council's budget will be reported to the council meeting on March 6. As previously stated, we are committed to protecting both the social services and education budgets.

Although setting the budget will not be easy, I intend to ensure we have a balanced budget. To do this, we will have to increase the council tax, as well as take money from our reserves.

It will be a difficult budget for many reasons, such as the Welfare Reform cuts that will inevitably hit residents and the council, along with the cuts to our Government funding, on top of the

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of
the Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

£25 million we need to save from our budgets in the next four years.

Historically, the Vale Council has a council tax rate well below the Welsh average and massively so against English councils.

This has meant that we are one of the lowest funded councils in Wales, if not the UK. We have inherited (yet again) a massive over-spending in social services which has meant that an extra £2m needs to be found this year, with another £1.4m for next year.

This coupled with the growing demand for social services and the introduction of welfare reform by the UK Government, leaves us with no other option than to propose this increase in council tax for this year.

The exact figure has not yet been agreed, but there is no alternative

under the circumstances, despite the considerable use of reserves for the coming years.

However, I can confirm that it is intended that the council's budget for schools will be increased and for the first time, that I can remember, the spending will meet the suggested budget allocation recommended by the Welsh Government.

'Speculation'
ON the subject of education, much is being said at the moment about addressing the surplus school places and its implication on schools within the Vale.

Much of this speculation has regrettably been fuelled by the local Conservative MP and the local Leader of the Conservatives in the Welsh Assembly.

Actually, the Scrutiny report has not

yet been considered by cabinet, but I can confirm that the recommendations will not be implemented in full.

In fact, I do not support the closure of either the Llanfair or Llanfarcas Schools for many reasons and I hope that cabinet will come to this decision.

My cabinet colleagues and I have grave reservations about many of the recommendations. There may, however, need to be changes to the schooling arrangements within the Vale, but any decisions will be based on solid evidence and will make the best use of the resources available and give the children the best possible chance in life.

The report to cabinet on this subject will be presented very soon and that report will give further information, which should explain the situation in greater depth, and stop all the unnecessary speculation.

I sincerely hope that those people who have created the fears and created the anxiety about the school issues, will apologise for creating such chaos and anguish – for no other than possibly political reasons.

They should be ashamed for being unforgivable scaremongers.

Local hedge trimmers to the fore in competition

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held its annual mechanical hedge trimming event at St Athan on February 17.

The society was very grateful to David Lowe for allowing the use of his field.

The competition was sponsored by Jonathan Edwards & Son and was judged by Philip Locke. Nigel Sullivan donated The Perpetual Shield for first place.

The sun shone on the competitors, who had to cut around 80 yards of hedge within an hour.

The head steward, John Morgan, called off the use of the inside of the field as the ground was far too wet, so the competitors were given points for cutting the roadside and the top of the hedge.

In each section, an obstacle post was placed in the centre of the hedge which then had to be cut around.

This made the job more difficult for the competitors.

The standard of workmanship in the competition was very high. The winner of the event was Adam Llewellyn, of Kenfig Hill; runner-up was



ABOVE: Adam Llewellyn receiving the winner's shield.

Mike Thomas; third place went to Tom Lougher; and fourth was R Morgan.

The chairman of the society, Andrew Studley, thanked the sponsors, the judge and the competitors for giving their time to attend and making it such a successful event.

The overall winner, Adam, was then asked to cut all the remaining bits from the hedge, so that it was left in a tidy state for the season ahead – that is the cost of being the winner!

Basil George of Ogmere Village was presented by Andrew Studley with the society's trophy for services to Welsh Ploughing and for his support, in particular, to the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society.



Basil George receiving his trophy.

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Out and About with The GEM

Apatow's latest a rambling, but enjoyable effort...

HAVING seen his band of young comedians blossom into big names, Judd Apatow has entered something of a reflective time.

Having helmed the likes of *The 40 Year Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up*, his last film, *Funny People*, was a meditative comedy that had a far more mature outlook.

Keeping this theme, his latest film, *This Is 40*, reunites us with Pete and Debbie (Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann) from *Knocked Up*, as we see how their lives are shaping up as the big birthday shows up on their horizon – but all isn't plain sailing for the couple...

While Judd Apatow's films have never been lacking in heart and emotion to go along

with the high joke rate, 2009's *Funny People* saw the writer/director temper the humour with concerns about life and making the most of the opportunities that come our way.

This Is 40 doesn't deviate too far from that template, again making observations on the fleeting nature of life, how society and your peers influence your decisions and how growing older doesn't always mean growing wiser.

While it does this with a keen eye for humour rather than melodrama, making it an easy watch, its meandering, slightly unfocused feel, means that while still hugely watchable, it isn't the smash you would hope for.

Apatow's move into 'grown-up' filmmaking is no bad one, but you can't help but feel his

previous successes have made him slightly bullet-proof, particularly in regards to his approach.

Had this been made by a less-renowned writer/director, you can imagine the studio would have asked for a tighter cut (the film lagging somewhat with a runtime of 132 minutes) but as it is a Judd Apatow film then such requests have gone by the wayside, leaving a work that entertains but goes the long way about it, subplots coming and going.

It feels like an excuse to see some top comedy actors improvise and have fun, and while it comes across like that onscreen, you can't help but feel a more judicious cut would have strengthened it greatly.

There is little fault-finding with the performances, led more than ably by Paul Rudd and Apatow's real-life

wife Leslie Mann. Rudd is always a likeable performer and here is no exception, the actor giving his usual comedic turn and sharing a wonderful chemistry with Mann, who takes her moment in the spotlight and runs with it.

She steps up to the plate and delivers a really superb turn that shines brightest.

Surrounding them are lovely supporting performances, from Apatow and Mann's real-life daughters to Albert Brooks and John Lithgow as parents struggling to connect with their children. When a film can make Megan Fox look like a decent actress then you know you're onto a winner!

With warmth and likeability in large servings, *This Is 40* is no bad film, and even with the slightly scattergun plot makes for an entertaining watch; but if only Apatow had been slightly more lethal in terms of his self-editing, then it would be a truly superb film.

As it is, it's a diverting, but undoubtedly funny, work.

VERDICT: Another



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

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step towards more serious fare for Judd Apatow, *This Is 40* isn't a drama by any means, but its balance of comedy and pathos makes it a worthwhile watch. Winning performances by top comedy actors add to the quality in what is an entertaining, if slightly rambling, piece of work.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Funny People* (2009), *Manhattan* (1979).

Yarn bombers set to invade library

AS part of the Barry Arts Festival, Yarn Bombing sessions take place in Barry Library every Wednesday from 10am-12pm.

This year, Barry Arts Festival is holding an exhibition of examples of yarn bombing in Art Central gallery, before and after the festival and an invitation is extended to all crocheters – new and experienced – to support the project. A series of sessions will be held in Barry Library to teach newcomers and share with experts, and create as much yardage of yarn as possible.

The original aim of the yarn bombing art movement, which is less than a decade old, was to create knitwear and crochet to wrap around objects and reclaim public spaces that were perceived to be cold and impersonal.

Trees, statues and even buildings have all sprouted wool overnight as a result of fuzzy graffiti activities. It is used by many groups and individuals to celebrate milestones or promote causes.



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WHAT'S ON

ON February 21 at 10am, 'Three Saints and a battle', (two hours), start at St Fagans Museum car park (fee payable, £3.50).

On February 21 at 10-am, the coffee shop strollers at Cold Knap, Barry, outside the Bridge Cafe.

February 24 at 2pm, 'Start of Spring Walk, St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

February 28 at 10.30am, 'Over the Downs', starting at the Fox and Hounds car park, St Bride's Major.

Book club

BARRY Book Club meets once a month for a lively discussion (over a couple of glasses of wine!) about a chosen book. This month, it's Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* today (Thursday, February 21).

The club meets ever third Thursday of the month at Scarlet's wine bar, Broad Street, Barry at 7.30pm.

For more information or for a full list of meeting dates and chosen books, contact carolineshawpewilliams@hotmail.co.uk.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding an advice surgery tomorrow (Friday, February 22) from 4pm to 5pm at Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhosce. No appointment is necessary.

MP's surgeries

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies will be holding street surgeries in Brynna on Friday (February 22) between 1pm-3pm, followed by a drop-in surgery at brynna OAP Hall, Southall Street, CF72 9QH.

Rhosce bingo

THE management committee at Rhosce Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhosce, are holding another of their Saturday Afternoon bingo sessions.

This will take place at the hall next Saturday, February 23. Doors open at

2pm for a 2.30pm start. All proceeds go towards the running of the hall. Come and join us for a fun afternoon.

Coastwatch coffee

ON Tuesday, February 26, Nell's Point National Coastwatch Station will be holding a charity coffee morning in the Corporate Suite Civic Office, Barry, 10.30am-12 noon. Various stalls and raffle. Admission £1.50.

Nell's Point is manned by a team of fully trained volunteers providing a daylight watch 365 days of the year, and is totally dependent upon support from the community.

History lecture

COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, March 1 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

It will be the Maud Gunter Memorial Lecture and is about Owain Glyn Dwr's invasions of southern Wales.

The speaker will be Dr Ralph Griffiths, Professor Emeritus of Medieval History, Swansea University. All welcome.

Writers' talk

THE Bridgend Writers' Circle meets on Friday, March 8 in the Bryntirion and Laleston Community Hall at 7.15pm-9.15pm, when Peter Read, poet, playwright and writer, will talk on '55 years of Creativity'. All welcome.

Lent lunches

ALL SAINTS' Barry Lent lunches start today (February 21) for four Thursdays ending on March 14 in All Saints' Barry Church Hall on Park Road from 1, including raffle and soup, bread and cheese, and tea and coffee.

Proceeds will go to the Kiyombe Cow scheme. Everyone is welcome.



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New Vale choir to make its debut at Ewenny Priory

A NEW Vale choir has been formed with two purposes – singing great music to a high standard and raising money for good causes.

The choir, called 'Caritas' (Latin for charity) meets twice each month in St Nicholas, and its first concert is due to take place in the magnificent medieval setting of Ewenny Priory on Thursday, March 7, at 7.30 p.m.

This first concert will be raising money for the Peterston and St Fagans branch of the NSPCC.

The choir's founder and conductor is Lindsay Gray, who lives in the village of St Nicholas. He was formerly the head of the Cathedral School in Llandaff, and until last year was the director of the Royal School of Church Music, an international charity.

While at the Cathedral School, one promising young voice that he worked with was Charlotte Church, who sang duets with his daughter, who is a member of the new

choir!

Mr Gray told The GEM: "There are 22 very able and experienced singers in the choir. Nobody involved takes any expenses or fees, so that as much as possible goes to charity."

In the first concert at Ewenny, in addition to many other pieces of music, the choir will sing the famous 'Miserere' by Allegri, which for many years was only ever heard in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, and which is now often heard on Classic FM.

As a special feature, the choir will be using both sections of the building for the Allegri and during the interval, the audience will be invited for refreshments in the section of the Priory which was painted by the artist Turner.

The audience will then be invited to step back in time and listen to the choir singing an early Renaissance piece in the upper area of the priory before returning to the main part of the building for the rest of the concert.

The choir consists of



ABOVE: Lindsay Gray, who has formed a new choir in the Vale.

10 sopranos, four altos (two female and two counter-tenors), four tenors and four basses (two baritones, two deep basses).

Mr Gray said: "There are singers from 'Only Men Aloud', the various choirs of Llandaff Cathedral, Cantemus, church and chapel choirs (including some former Oxford and Cambridge choral scholars).

"Many of the singers are also experienced soloists which means that all the solos are

sung from within the choir.

"In addition, we only use organ (or piano) accompaniment, and much of our singing is a cappella."

He continued: "Our repertoire focuses especially on great works, from late medieval times to the 18th century, but we also perform more recent pieces.

"We are delighted that one of the most exciting up and coming composers in Great Britain, Tommy Hewitt Jones, who has worked on film scores in Hollywood, as well as writing the music for the Olympic Mascot theme in 2012, will be attending the inaugural concert on March 7, and we look forward to singing a piece by him on that occasion.

All proceeds go to the NSPCC; tickets are available from Caroline Gray (01446 760886) or Camellia Moody Jones (01446 760757) at £10 (concessions £7.50) but they are limited in number.

Lucas gets a real truck as a Christmas 'present'

WHEN Lucas Hanman asked Father Christmas for a recycling truck, the Vale Council decided to help Santa make the seven-year-old's wish come true.

The council's director of visible services and housing, Miles Punter, invited Barry resident Lucas on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Alps depot in Wenvoe – where most of the waste management, cleansing and highways vehicles are based.

Lucas was allowed to sit on-board a recycling vehicle, was a VIP guest around the yard and presented with a t-shirt and photograph of his tour.

Lucas's mum Hayley said: "Lucas enthusiastically recycles, and loves absolutely anything to do with vehicles, so we were thrilled to be invited on site to see what happens at first-hand with the Vale Council's fleet.

"Since his visit, Lucas has been chatting



Lucas Hanman with director of visible services and housing, Miles Punter and recycling truck driver, Brian Baker.

about his experience all weekend to everyone he knows. Aside from the magic of Father Christmas, we would like to thank Miles and his team at the Alps for making this happen."

The short tour also allowed Lucas to help carry out end-of-round vehicle checks, review CCTV footage at the Alps, operate the barrier at the security lodge with the guard on duty, see the heated gritting vehicle depot, salt store and the garage where

the fleet vehicles are maintained.

Miles Punter said: "We were delighted to grant this Christmas wish for a local boy.

"We sometimes take a vehicle to schools to help improve youngsters' understanding of the recycling process.

"This year at the Vale Show, we are looking into the option of taking a recycling vehicle to our stand, so hopefully even more youngsters can experience first-hand what it's like to sit on-board a vehicle and may be inspired to get involved and recycle at home."

Wine Circle's monthly meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Wine Circle meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm in Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

For further details, contact Joanna Ping on 01446 792440, or Geoff Harding on 01446 792041.

MAYOR'S COFFEE

THE National Coastwatch Institution at Nell's Point will benefit from the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan's charity coffee morning in the corporate suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, February 26 at 10.30am-12 noon.

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Any product containing authentic Welsh Lamb or Welsh Beef will be labelled with the PGI mark and the Welsh Lamb

by GEM STAFF

and Welsh Beef logos.

HCC's Chairman, Dai Davies, said "Many shoppers may have lost confidence in some processed meat products in light of the horsemeat scandal.

"This is why we are encouraging everyone who wants a quality, authentic product to look for the logos for PGI and Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef. If you see these logos on a product you can be assured that you are getting what you are buying."

In fact, hundreds of easy-to-make Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef recipes can be found on the EatWelshbeef.com and EatWelshlamb.com websites.

Every cloud, of course, has a silver lining and what is a major problem for multi-national food giants, is undoubtedly an opportunity for the suppliers here in the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs.

Local butchers have noticed an upswing in trade in recent days, with people wanting to buy with confidence and know where the meat comes from.

Tony Hopkins at Vic Hopkins & Son on High Street, Barry has noticed a change in his clientele.

"We've seen a lot of new faces coming in that we haven't seen before.

"Some of them have lost faith in the supermarkets which have been cheap - now people know why.

"A fair amount of those new to us are younger people. They are asking questions about where the meat comes from."

Much of Tony's is sourced from west Wales, such as beef from Anthony Rees at Cawdor House Farm in Haverfordwest.

Tony thinks recent events may lead people to re-examine the benefits of shopping locally. He is supporting a Facebook campaign, 'Live Shop Local' which encourages people to try out independent businesses.

In the offices of the NFU, there was a strong desire to emphasise the benefits of local produce. David Harris told The GEM: "We see this as a wonderful opportunity for local farms and producers to promote the goods.

"You can buy local produce with total confidence that it will not have been interfered with. Just look out for the little red tractor!"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)



Tony Hopkins is proud that his beef is Welsh (it comes from Pembrokeshire).

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(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 16)

One farmer putting
that into practice is
Jonathan Tudor, of
Morgannwg Meats at Ty
Wrth-y-Coed Farm, in
Merthyr Mawr, who
offers lamb and beef,
raised on the farm,
direct to the customer.

He told THE GEM:
"All our lamb is our
own and, if we do run
out of beef, then that is
sourced from a farm
only a few miles away."

At VFM in
Palmerston, Barry, a lot
of the meat is cut on the
premises.

Simon Nash, who has
run the company for 10
years, said: "Most of our
beef comes in carcass
form. We also have box
beef from Scotland, and
bone a lot of the beef on
the premises."

VFM has suppliers of
meat in Wales and
Scotland, the pork and
chickens come from
England.

Simon explained: "I
do think people care
about what they are eat-
ing and where it is com-
ing from.

"We are selling three
times as many burgers

as before. We make our
own sausages on the
premises - there are 30
varieties."

In Cowbridge, a
prime example of a local
supplier is Ivor Nicholas
Butchers, where James
and Jane Nicholas took
over last summer, after
their father passed away.

James told THE GEM:
"We have noticed quite
a few new faces, and
many of them have been
asking questions about
our produce - particularly
the younger ones."

"I think the fact that
all our mince, sausages
and burgers are made
here, from good cuts of
meat, has been impor-
tant to customers."

"Also, Jane and I
would like to take this
opportunity to thank our
customers for all their
support since our father
passed away."

Huw Williams runs
John Marshall, Barry's
oldest butcher, which is
in the heart of the town,
on Holton Road, oppo-
site Wilkinson's store.

It has been trading
since 1889, so it must be
doing something right!

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 18)

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Helen Blunn BSc RD,
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Support your Butchers & Local Produce Provider



'Chance for farmers to reconnect with public'



I.G. Nicholas display.



Barry's oldest butcher's business Marshall's, has been serving the community since 1889.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Huw said: "Our meat comes from west and mid-Wales, which reassures our customers."

"In the last few days there has been an increase in trade. People are now seeing the advantages of dealing with a local butcher."

Gill Morgan of C & G Morgan and Son, at Gellfeddaer Farm in Blackmill, is the chairman of the farmers' market that is held once a month in Porthcawl.

She sees the current furore as a chance for farmers to "reconnect" with the public.

She said: "I think the fact that farmers' markets have been growing in popularity in recent years, has been a very good thing. Customers know they can buy local and be assured of traceability."

She said that farmers' markets were looking to tackle the impression among some customers that the goods were sold at premium prices.

She explained: "One thing we have done recently is to create recipes for good quality cheaper cuts of meat, such as brisket, so that more people can shop locally and be sure where their meat has come from."

"Personally, I don't think ready-made meals are such great value. They are just one meal and then they are gone."

"A good cut of meat can be used to make several meals, and I hope that our recipes will bring this home to people."



Charles and Gill Morgan, of Gellfeddaer Farm, Blackmill.



ABOVE: The display at Vic Hopkins & Son, High Street, Barry.



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country of origin.



Third generation family butchers



Peter Wood with granddaughter Jessica.

Gwyn's T-bone wish is granted!



Chef David Hynam-Jones gets detailed instructions from Gwyn Evans (left) on how his T-bone steak should be cooked.

THE GEM recently reported that at a 'Dignity in Care' Make a Wish event at the RMBI Albert Edward Prince of Wales

Court, in Porthcawl, two residents – Gwyn Evans and Alan Petty – made a special request for a steak meal.

As a result, a steak

evening was held at the court to grant their wishes.

It was no surprise that Gwyn requested a T-bone steak, as he was a butcher prior to retirement. Both the Masonic Home and the Friends of the Court thought that this was a great idea, and rather than just the two gentlemen benefiting from the wish, it was decided to hold a steak evening for all the gentlemen in the Home who would like to attend.

Fifteen residents were joined by guest Alan Gardener, the chairman of the Friends of the Court, together with other committee members.

To add credibility to the evening, Gwyn was dressed for the part in butcher's kit provided by Tantums of Porthcawl.

The guest of honour was Ian Hall, the former Wales rugby international, who also tucked into a steak before giving a very interesting and enlightening after dinner talk about his time playing for Wales.

Needless to say, everyone enjoyed the evening.

Report and photographs by Keith E Morgan

'IT PAYS TO INVEST IN ROMANIA!'

The present hostility and resentment, fostered by the media, towards Romania and Bulgaria, is extremely damaging to the potential for British business.

By the very nature of economics, any financial investment into underdeveloped countries of this type, must yield 10 or 20 times the return of the same amount of money invested here in Britain.

If we purchase one of these huge tractors which are now commonplace in the farms of Britain, we will get a sound return from the great power available to the farmer, but if a British company invests the same amount of money in such a tractor in Rumania, it has the potential, used 24 hours a day

under floodlighting, to revolutionise the levels of productivity from the soils of Rumania.

If the productivity of any enterprise, in agriculture or any other industry, is multiplied to such a vast extent, the profits can be enormous.

It is not possible to imagine a greater profit, than where, on very rare occasions, the technology of any industry can be so increased, in such a short time, to such dramatic effect. This is our opportunity.

Instead of closing British factories in order to open the equivalent replacement in China, merely in order to keep down the wage bill, which is the present thinking of British boardrooms, it makes more sense to invest in Rumania, using modern British technology and expertise, to form strong trade links, to the bene-

fit of British and Rumanian markets, both expanding from the interchange.

Machines and raw materials are imported and exported, and the opportunity then exists to establish international standards of assured quality, by EU law, which are the only long term basis of confidence in any markets or financial institu-

tions. Britain can play an important part in setting up such standards, with legal teeth.

Trade and commerce which is mutually desirable, within a large stable trading bloc such as the EU, is the most secure form of economics for the future of all of us.

N Westerman, Brynna

NEWS IN BRIEF Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday, February 28, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall when Belinda Ashong will be talking on 'The Heritage Coast and Dunraven Gardens'. New members welcome.

Art session

ON Thursday, February 28, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome artist Gayle Rogers, who will lead a practical session on how to make art cards, editions and originals, which are small artworks made with coloured pencils.

The society meets on Thursday evenings in the Old Hall, Cowbridge, (7pm-9pm). Visitors welcome. For full programme, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com



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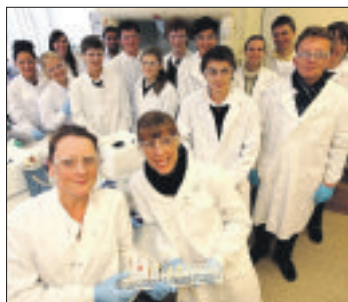
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Heart to Heart roadshow in Vale



The Heart to Heart roadshow initiative was supported by Jane Hutt, AM and Vale councillor Gwyn John.

ON a tour around Wales promoting organ donation, the Welsh Government's Heart to Heart Roadshow team dropped into Morrisons in Barry to meet people, hand out leaflets, and explain how they can register and join the NHS Organ Donor Register www.organdonation.nhs.uk.

With the message that 'transplants save lives' the opportunity to join the register was explained to shoppers who took a keen interest, it was reported.

Ty Hafan youngsters have the X-Factor!



The entertainment gets under way at Ty Hafan.



Young fan with the X-Factor.

TY HAFAN had a special surprise when stars from the TV's X-Factor paid them a visit last week.

Singers from the show, including winner James Arthur, Rylan Clark, Ella Henderson, Jahmene Douglas and groups Union J and District3 were all on hand to entertain children and their families.

Lewis Gasson, said it was "amazing" to meet the stars. The 12-year-old from Cardiff, who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, said: "We had such a good time

and I'm so pleased that I met them all."

Rylan Clark clearly enjoyed the afternoon and later tweeted: "What an inspirational bunch of people at Ty Hafan children's hospice. Thanks for a great visit. See you all soon x".

Ella Henderson also tweeted: "What incredibly strong families at Ty Hafan hospice x x pleasure meeting u all!! ... & thank u for my drawing!"

The singers later performed at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena for the X Factor Live Tour.

The visit was organised through the Together for Short Lives charity for children with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions and all those who love, support and care for them.

All the proceeds from James Arthur's winning single, 'Impossible' will be donated to Together for Short Lives to support children's hospices like Ty Hafan and other voluntary organisations to sustain their vital work.

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Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number

● **£2,000:** 273420.
● The rollover, which now stands at £7,500, was not won this week.
● **£10:** 401710, 776162, 852513, 421754, 130908, 540060, 694115, 502567, 463018, 824705, 727056, 479687, 783663, 133909, 242086, 717137, 574581, 845416, 701359, 131212.

● **£5:** 401530, 795281, 183027, 400875, 505261, 604900, 123262, 650782, 544133, 143699, 778761, 554532, 272514, 749151, 623641,

205982, 177864, 454564, 223584, 659465, 461641, 876801, 518446, 204201, 253749, 495860, 445395, 642877, 315200, 302446, 224763, 411145, 178265, 368022, 278749, 577384, 687457, 149733, 600398, 637511, 157323, 691115, 320805, 110559, 122079, 872881, 607973, 134445, 392012, 897648, 477172, 521031, 418930, 921360, 330488, 745100, 510530, 811865, 435588, 742693.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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'Don't lose your right of way'

COUNCIL Clarke (Letters page, the GEM, February 14) must be commended for bringing the 'republication of the definitive map and statement' consultation on 'public rights of way' to the public's attention – especially since the council failed to post it on its website or in the local press.

Many recorded routes on the current map historically passed through fields and open farmland. Lots of these areas have since been developed, so the new map will be accompanied by a new statement describing the routes as they are 'on the ground' today.

Any errors in the transposition from the old to the new could

have very serious consequences. For instance, routes could be missed off the new map altogether, or even be described as going through your property!

Difficulties like these take years to resolve and could cost you dearly as matters like this can end up in Court.

There will also be a cost on the 'public purse' – which proper consultation could save. The consultation is clearly inadequate and the consultation period should be extended and widened beyond Barry Docks Office Room F38 – not least because there are outstanding orders that by law need to be resolved before the existing 'definitive map' can be consolidated.

User groups, such as the Ramblers, should be involved in the process as should local town and community councils.

If you have an interest in walking, or want to make sure that a route on the new map is not going to intrude upon your home and privacy, see www.intrusivefootpaths.org.uk and <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/32720>.

I urge you to attend the hopefully extended and widened consultation, and check how the proposed new map and statement affects you, before it is too late.

Karen Gallimore (FocusBarry supporter)

'DECISIONS IGNORE THE RURAL VALE'

WE live and work in the rural Vale, and our two children, currently in years 3 and 6, have gone to Llanfair Primary School since nursery.

Llanfair is a small, friendly school, it has a caring and inclusive ethos. The school takes children from all backgrounds and ability, they encourage all the children to fulfil their potential and they get excellent academic results.

We do not live within the communities of St Athan, Llantwit Major or one of the villages, and we are not part of the military community.

Our children do not have a play area or street to meet their friends. Llanfair School is their community, so the effect of closing the school would be far greater than just disturbance to education.

There are many people in the same situation and I think that our views are often not considered because we do not have a wider community voice.

I am concerned that councillors make political decisions to benefit the larger areas of population and ignore the more scattered rural population.

I am also concerned about proposed changes to the secondary school admissions from the current primary school feeder system to the catchment system.

Housing costs vary widely across the Vale, often dictating where families live.

The current feeder schools allow all families to plan their children's education with some certainty, not just those families who are able to live within the catchment of popular schools.

The feeder schools allow children to form a network of friends and peers which greatly helps their transition to secondary school and throughout their lives.

Jetta Sunderland, Cowbridge.

Pancake race is a winner at Belvedere Park!



ABOVE: Enjoying the pancakes in the café.

BELVEDERE Park played host to a pancake race to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and Jean Jones, project coordinator, along with volunteers and members of the Drop-In Centre Development Trust, helped to make the afternoon in Barry a great success.

The races ran from Patio area 1 (Race Control) in the garden, where children had

fun practising flipping the pancakes, before lining up on their marks for the off.

Both adults and children who attended were invited to Castleland Community Cafe afterwards for drinks and pancakes.

The next event to take place in the park will celebrate St David's Day on March 1.

If you would like to be involved in helping to organise events, or with garden maintenance, telephone 01446 403549 ext 0003.

Did you know you can follow The GEM on Twitter? Find us @gem_news

'NO LINK WITH CHARTER TRUST'

THANK YOU for publishing the article for the Cowbridge Charter Trust, regarding the open meeting that includes our AGM and the presentation of our proposed Town Wall and cattle market project.

In his letter that followed the article, Mr Dennis Harkus, a FocusBarry supporter, wondered if the Cowbridge Charter Trust had any link with Cowbridge Comprehensive School Trust, or the Sir Thomas Mansel Frankland Trust.

I can understand, with the

commonality of the words Cowbridge and Trust, how Mr Harkus might think there was some connection. However, there isn't any connection.

If he would like to check out the Charter Trust then that can be done through the Charity Commission, using our registration number. 1107225.

Or for a more informative check, log on to our web site www.cowbridgechartertrust.co.uk where you will find our history and lots more.

Mr Harkus, and any of your readers, are welcome to attend our AGM next week, where we will be pleased to answer any questions he or anyone else may

have. It seems that Mr Harkus is not the only one mixing up the Trusts. The news item in The GEM on January 31 has been brought to my attention regarding the installation of a memorial bench for Mike Meredith in the Physic Garden.

This and the creation of the garden were wrongly attributed to the Cowbridge Charter Trust, instead of to our friends, the Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust.

The open meeting is on Tuesday, February 26. Doors open at 7.10pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall. **Harry Hailes, Cowbridge (Trustee)**

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OGMORE CASTLE HELPED NORMANS SAFEGUARD LAND

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Newcastle and Coity,
Ogmore Castle was
constructed by the
Normans to safeguard
land and communica-
tion routes in
Glamorgan, writes
MANSEL JONES.**

The earliest recorded date for Ogmore Castle is 1116, although it is possible that a structure was built on the site as early as 1093 when Robert Fitzhamon, Earl of Gloucester, invaded Glamorgan and established a frontier along the River Ewenny.

William de Londres, who also founded a church at Ewenny, developed the castle. Later, William's son, Maurice, built the rectangular tower at Ogmore, in 1126. The tower was 40 feet high with walls six feet thick and its three storeys housed a grand hall and apartments for the lord and his family.

An exposed staircase on the east side of the tower led to the first floor, while an adjacent gateway was added in the 13th century. Like his father, Maurice de Londres also contributed to the religious houses in the area when he found-

ed the fortified priory at Ewenny, in 1141.

The castle keep at Ogmore is one of the earliest in Wales and the keep was built with the aid of irregular boulders, glacial pebbles and limestone slabs.

The castle nestles beside the bank of the River Ewenny and it is surrounded by a moat, except for the north side, which is bounded by the river. A unique row of stepping-stones, leading from the outer-bailey across the river, offers an important fording point, protected by the castle.

Although the castle was strategically placed to guard the river crossing it, nevertheless, had an uneventful military history; in 1116 Gruffydd ap Rhys ap Tudwr attacked the castle during his rebellion in south Wales, but apart from that incident and a number of minor skirmishes, the castle remained secure.

In the 12th century, a rectangular building, one storey high, was constructed. It is difficult to be sure what this building was used for, but one theory suggests that it was a cellar.

In the 13th century,

the old earthwork rampart was developed and a stone curtain was erected to form a polygonal enclosure.

Also in the 13th century, at the north end of this enclosure, the de Londres family built a long, rectangular hall containing two storeys and a solar.

In 1298, Ogmore Castle passed to Payne de Chaworth, Lord of Kidwelly, and the building became a part of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Henry, Earl of Lancaster, owned the castle from 1327 until 1333, when David ap

Llewellyn was the constable, then it passed to Henry, Duke of Lancaster, until 1361.

Maud, Henry's daughter, took possession of the castle until 1362 when it became the property of John of Gaunt. John of Gaunt held the fortress for the following decade, until 1372. At that point, the constable of Ogmore was John Wrenche.

By the 14th century, Ogmore Castle had outlived its initial purpose and the once-mighty fortress was used as a humble prison and a courthouse.

Rabbit Council's 'small animal' Island show

THE British Rabbit Council is holding a rosette show for small animals at Barry Island Community Centre on Sunday, March 10.

Small animals refers to rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs (but not dogs).

The show will run

from 10am until between 3pm and 4pm.

Pets will be judged and should be at the venue by 11.30am.

For more information, contact Pets R Us, Regent Street, Barry; Penarth Pets, Windsor Road, Penarth; or Pets R Us in Talbot Green, Ely Valley Road (next to HSBC).

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Bridgend County Borough Council

Building Excellence Awards 2013



The Bridgend County Borough Council Building Control Team

*Back row left to right :
Cliff Bull (Building Control Surveyor),
Roger Howells (Building Control
Surveyor), Roger Jones (Building
Control Surveyor), Paul Jeremy
(Building Control Surveyor).*

*Front row left to right:
Paul Joseph (Senior Building Control
Surveyor), Beth Flower-Jones
(Technical Assistant),
Brian Wallace (Principal Building
Control Manager),
Meryl Morgan (Building Control
Assistant), David Todd-Jones (Senior
Building Control Surveyor).*

The categories are:

**Home Extensions and Alterations
(including loft conversion)**

**Best Domestic Conversion
(includes barn conversions/flats etc)**

New Housing 2-10 Units

Best Community/Healthcare Buildings

**Best Small Commercial Project
(up to £5 million)**

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



THE eighth annual Building Excellence Awards are set to be held in Bridgend on Thursday, February 28, 2013.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's Building Control team, the awards are designed to showcase high-quality buildings and recognise design teams who have overcome technical issues by developing innovative and creative solutions.

Nominations for the awards are provided by the council's Building Control surveyors who are responsible for supervising the projects as they progress on site through to the completion of the building work.

We are placing greater requirements than ever before on architects, surveyors and builders and as a result of this, our buildings are of better quality, more sustainable and energy efficient, and a safer place to live and work.

To achieve this, greater skills are needed within our industry and resources should be put into training the next generation of trades people, planners, designers and architects.

With the ceremony set to take place at the Civic Offices in Angel Street, there are five categories of award. The winners are judged on their construction and technical building qualities.

The awards will be presented by The Mayor, Councillor Marlene Thomas; Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Phillip White; Director of Communities, Louise Fradd; Head of Development and Regeneration, Satwant Pryce; and Chairman of Development Control Committee, Councillor Hywel Williams.

The winners will also go forward to the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) awards for south Wales, which will be hosted by Jamie Owen (BBC Wales) at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf and Spa Resort on April 26.

The winning entries from south Wales will then have an opportunity to be recognised on a national scale at the LABC National Building Awards in London this November, where they will compete against entries from the rest of the UK.

For more information, visit the planning pages at www.bridgend.gov.uk



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CYMRU**

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CATEGORY 1: Home Extensions/Alterations



DESCRIPTION:
EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS

ADDRESS: 4 WHITEHART
COTTAGES, LLANGYNWYD, MAESTEG

CONTRACTOR:
LLAN PROPERTY SERVICES

ARCHITECT: DAVID OWEN
ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS



The project involved the refurbishment and extension of a 150 year old stone built cottage situated in the hilltop village of Llangynwyd.

As the cottage is within a conservation area, works had to be sympathetically carried out to retain the character and essence of the area.

This was achieved by retaining many of the building's original features e.g. the stone staircase and fireplaces, whilst incorporating a 'cat-slide roof' to the rear elevation, which enables the extension to be integrated into the main property.

The principles of sustainability were also maintained by using materials compatible to the green guide, whilst the building is fully energy efficient in accordance with Approved Document L1B and achieved a SAP Rating of 74.

The Contractor Llan Property Services are well known in the area for their ability to undertake refurbishment projects on 'old' buildings and barns that require a sympathetic approach but also incorporating new forms of technology and construction, and with this project they have once again achieved this goal.

CATEGORY 2: Best Domestic Conversions



DESCRIPTION:
CONVERSION OF BUNGALOW

ADDRESS:
"GARDEN HOUSE"
1 NOTTAGE MEAD, NOTTAGE

CONTRACTOR:
J.R. DESFORGES AND
RICHARD BRADFORD

ARCHITECT:
STUART BENTLEY



Stuart Bentley
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The creation of the large open roof family living area, presented a challenge to the designer and contractor with the removal of loadbearing walls and ceilings, whilst ensuring the existing roof structure remained in place.

The solution and centre piece of the project was the provision of a large site assembled oak frame and ring beam, requiring a high level of precision and workmanship which was achieved by the Contractor, resulting in the delivery of an excellent living area with very high quality finishes.



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CATEGORY 3: New Housing

TWO TO TEN UNITS


DESCRIPTION:

2 NEW DWELLINGS

ADDRESS: 1 AND 2 BLUNDELL COURT, PORTHCAWL

CONTRACTOR:

MIKA CONSTRUCTION

ARCHITECT:

DAVID NEWTON WILLIAMS

The proposal involved the construction of two dwellings on a 'brown field' site previously occupied by light industrial and storage units.

The developer/contractor, who is well established in the area embraced the sustainability principle, incorporating high levels of insulation, efficient heating systems and rainwater harvesting.

In line with the high standard of workmanship and finishes associated with the Contractor, two quality dwellings have been constructed.


Mike Parsons' last project before retirement

The LABC-winning contractor award for the New Building category with his Blundell Court, Porthcawl project.

After 40 years in the business, building his first house at the age of 21, Mike Parsons of Mika Property Building Services has finally put down his tools.

His award-winning last project was the building of two properties on the brown field site rear of Blundell Avenue, called Blundell Court, which had been an old builders yard owned by his father-in-law, Mr Brian Pellett.

The two properties are now co-habited by Mr and Mrs Parsons, and father-in-law Mr Pellett. Alzheimers' sufferer Mr Pellett says he is extremely proud of his clever son-in-law and loves his new home.



CATEGORY 4: Best Community/Healthcare Buildings


DESCRIPTION:

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CENTRE

ADDRESS:

BRYNMENYN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BRYNMENYN, BRIDGEND

CONTRACTOR:

ANDREW SCOTT LIMITED

ARCHITECT:

HOLDER MATHIAS ARCHITECTS

The works comprised the adaptation of an existing vacant warehouse into a 'state of the art' Operational Support Centre, in close proximity to the M4 corridor.

The building has been designed with sustainability in mind, and has been thermally upgraded to meet the requirements of Approved Document L2b. The building is fully accessible to disabled users from external parking bays and ramps through to a lift to provide internal access to the upper floor.

The time for the development was a major factor within the construction period, due to the fact that the facility had to be complete 3 months prior to the start of the Olympic Games. This was achieved due to the diligence and organisation of the contractor Andrew Scott Limited and the design team.


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Andrew Scott Ltd is proud to be nominated for the development of the New Ambulance Station, Bryn Menyn.



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CATEGORY 5: Small Commercial Project UP TO £5 MILLION

DESCRIPTION:

YMCA Building

ADDRESS:

YMCA, John Street, Porthcawl

CONTRACTOR: Gravan Construction

ARCHITECT:

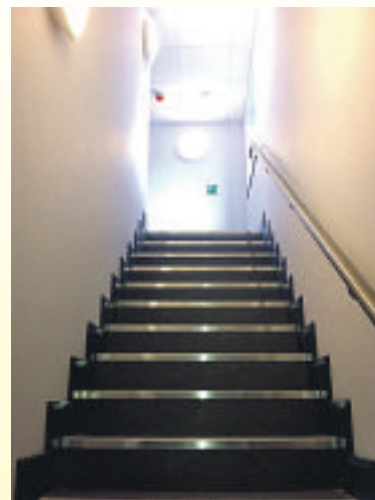
Jenkins Gould Partnership

The restricted town centre location of the existing building presented the Contractor with the usual access issues associated with this type of site.

These matters were overcome during the progress of the works and the extension was completed within a seven month period, with minimum disruption to the existing building.

The completed building provides a multi-functional meeting place for the community, providing access for all, including wheelchair users, with a Part M compliant lift and is very energy efficient, and in keeping with the surrounding area.

The relationship between the Contractor and the area Building Control Surveyor was a crucial factor in the success of the project.



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AWARD WINNING ARCHITECTS MOVE TO COWBRIDGE

(Elio Leo, left, & Nick Renwick, right)

It's not just Waitrose who have moved into Cowbridge. Two architects are combining their operations and have moved into a conversion in the Old Hall. Nick Renwick and Elio Leo who first worked in an office together in the 1980's and then went their separate ways have now decided to pool their resources and work together again.

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Nick with his conservation and planning experience will be concentrating on special sites throughout the Vale, Wales and West of England; Elio will bring his Italian flare to bear on these and also more commercial projects. Both have won awards for projects in the past so expect some interesting buildings in both new and old materials to the highest design and energy standards.

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Before ...



After ...



Before ...



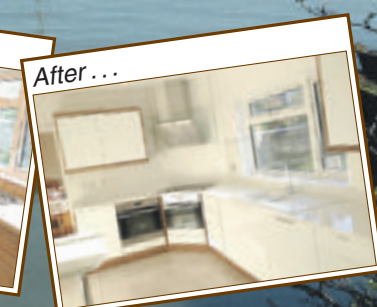
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Before ...



After ...



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WIND BLOWN IN THE BEACONS!

NINE eager Penarth and District Ramblers joined their leader Barrie for the journey up to the Brecon Beacons, and the start of their walk from Pont ar Daf car park, which has been subject to upgrading by the National Trust.

The weather was a bonus, dry with some winter sunshine and the temperature just above freezing as they carefully set out walking southwards beside the A470 until they reached its junction with the A4059 which winds its way over the mountain top towards Penderyn and Neath.

Diverting into the

woods behind the Beacons reservoir, which is the topmost of the three reservoirs in the Taff Fawr valley and which opened in September 1897, they followed a path that meandered through some mud in places and made their way towards Fan Fawr or big peak.

The blustery wind was biting cold and finding a sheltered place they stopped for morning coffee before climbing gradually uphill to the trig point on Fan Fawr, which stands at 712 metres and from where the clear 360-degree views of the surrounding countryside were fantastic.

Because they had gained height, the temperature had dropped to around four degrees below freezing. Continuing their journey along the plateau of

Craig y Fro, they walked towards Fan Frynach to seek another place to stop out of the wind, where lunch was enjoyed in bright warm sunshine with the tops of the surrounding peaks still covered in snow.

Then it was time to go downhill through part of the 156-acre Craig Cerrig-gleisiad Nature Reserve home to various rare alpine plants, peregrine falcons, ravens and various species of butterfly.

Reaching the bottom and re-crossing the A470 a steep sided field led them downhill to cross the Afon Tarell for the short ascent onto the old drovers' road that led them back to Storey Arms. Once a coaching inn, it was abandoned around 1897 when the Beacons Reservoir was completed.

On February 24, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a seven-mile moderate walk in the Tarell Valley below Storey Arms; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

Contact www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com for further information, or telephone 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

Nuisance calls raised by MP in Commons

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns has secured a debate in Westminster on February 28 to highlight to Parliament the issue of nuisance and unsolicited calls.

The MP said he had been contacted by constituents from across the Vale who were annoyed and concerned about the number and types of unsolicited calls that they receive on their home phone lines.

He met with Ofcom in January to discuss nuisance and unsolicited calls and called for the Westminster debate as part of his ongoing campaign on behalf of Vale constituents.

"Ofcom confirmed that in July 2012, 9,803 complaints about unsolicited marketing calls were registered with the TPS compared to 3,212 in December 2011.

"Ofcom have established a five-point plan to bring together industry, regulators and Government to help address the problem. New research will help identify more clearly the problems that consumers experience and the companies and sectors behind them," he said.

"The range of measures in the plan will also ensure that, in conjunction with ICO (Information Commissioner's Office), compliance with Ofcom's rules on silent and abandoned calls will be more strictly enforced - those that breach rules could face fines up to £2m."

The Vale MP has also asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration she has given to taking steps to improve the clarity of responsibility between the ICO and Ofcom with regard to the issue of nuisance telephone calls.

LETTERS: MOLEHILLS, HILLOCKS, OR ANT HILLS?



'Yellow meadow ants'...

ITH reference to the photo and article titled 'I am a mole and I live in a hole' in The GEM on February 7, I am sorry to say that Mr Geoffrey Harding of Llantwit Major has got his animals mixed up.

The small 'hills' in the photo are not 'mole hills', but 'ant hills'.

These 'hills' are made by Yellow Meadow ants, (*Lasius flavus*).

As a self-employed pest controller, I get a lot of people making similar

mistakes.

I hope this information is of help to your readers.

Tony Williams
(Predator, Pest & Wildlife Control Services)

GEM NOTE:

The photograph (repro-

duced above) has attracted much attention from other GEM readers, with one having insisted that the mounds are in fact "hillocks", while another (below) says they are caused by red ants!

...RED ANTS'

With further reference to the "mole" hills near Aberthaw, these are actually red ant hills and have been in their present position for well over 60 years!

When I worked, as an apprentice, at Aberthaw Cement Works they were there then.
Desmond Johnson, Llantwit Major

After Europe, what then?

I CONSIDER myself to be a European, Anglo-Welsh and British, not necessarily in that order - it depends on my mood and, if staying in a hotel, the wording on the registration form - on occasion, due to a slight, biological ancestry, I even write 'Romany'.

This all came to mind recently with the renewed calls from the Conservative right and UKIP etc for either a referendum or policy of leaving the EU altogether - the sooner the better. As I have said in GEM correspondence before, no empire lasts forever. The EU and associated Euro will be no exception and I have been a Europhile since my political awakening during the 1956 Suez crisis.

Not only that, I have twice been selected as a European parliamentary candidate, when the Labour party was Socialist and I was a member. Europhobes often trot out the argument that we can, on leaving the EU, expand our trading relationship with countries of the Commonwealth.

Perhaps we can and will, but BEWARE. Prime Minister David Cameron has visited India seeking to consolidate our trade and drum up new business at the very time that Delhi threatened to cancel a £480 million purchase of British-built helicopters over allegations of the payment of bribes.

In 2012, Delhi chose to go French and chose a French jet over the Eurofighter in a £12.9 billion deal.

Significantly, a day or so after Cameron's visit,

Francois Hollande, the French president, arrived in India with the prospect of signing a pact to build India's first high-speed rail link.

Furthermore, the final signing of the Dassault Rafale fighter jet deal, one of the world's largest defence contracts, will take place this summer. This will ensure that France overtakes Britain in the list of India's biggest trading partners, with GB already lagging behind Germany and tiny Belgium.

So much for Commonwealth friendship and solidarity. If this is not available, where do we look for large trading partners on quitting the EU? Mrs Coombes-Herridge of Barry and GEM correspondent, please note.

Christopher Short, Barry



COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN
Your community correspondents are
Sam & Patsie Smith on
(01446) 751448

FUNERAL OF ALAN TAYLOR
ALAN'S funeral took place on Saturday, February 16 at the new Vale Crematorium in Barry, in the presence of a large congregation of his friends and relatives.

The service was conducted by the Venerable Peggy Jackson and the Reverend Malcolm Davies.

Alan was born in August 1936 in Newport and went to both primary and secondary schools there; in 1954, he joined the RAF to complete his National Service. After leaving, he joined the Royal Navy propellant factory at Caerwent, where he worked in the laboratory. He married first in 1959 and Ian was born in 1962.

In 1963, Alan left Caerwent and joined Midland Silicones, where he worked in the analytical research department, and stayed with the company when it became Dow Corning, eventually retiring in 1994.

He married Sue in 1971 and then moved to Llanccarfan, where he became an important part of village life, being a founder member of the Llanccarfan Society and the Llanccarfan

Community Association. He was stage manager for the three pantomimes that were held by LADS (Llanccarfan Amateur Dramatic Society), his organising ability made things that were impossible work really well!

He loved his football and was a great supporter of Cardiff City and Newport County; he was also instrumental in setting up the Llanccarfan Petanque Piste in the tennis club grounds and was a very accomplished player himself, as is Sue.

One of his great loves was his garden and as a school governor, he was instrumental in helping the schoolchildren develop their garden at the primary school.

His other great interests were in industrial archaeology and the First and Second World Wars and he and Sue were frequent visitors to Flanders and in particular to Ypres, Passchendaele and the Menin Gate, where they heard the Last Post played frequently.

Alan will be greatly missed by all his many friends and a large number of others whose lives he touched.

Our sympathies go out to Sue and the family.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

LAST February, St Bridget's Day was celebrated in style when a Celtic service was held in the church of the same name in St Brides Major.

This was followed by an Irish night in the Fox and Hounds, with the pub suitably decorated, and a delicious Irish stew was enjoyed by all present.

Again, on Sunday, February 3, the Irish Patron Saint was recognised with a traditional parish lunch at the church hall after a Eucharist service at the church.

The tables were beautifully laid and the meal provided by the ladies of the committee was delicious, followed by sumptuous puddings with excellent wine.

A happy parish gathering was enjoyed by all, despite the inclement weather.

The age of those present ranged from a three-week-old baby to a 93-year-old lady.

DATES for the diary: Wick Chapel services for February and March are planned as follows - Sunday, February 10, welcome to the new Year. February 24, special thoughts of chapel and past members.

March 10, Mothering Sunday.

March 31, Easter Sunday.

A very warm welcome awaits everyone.

THE St Brides Major Community Council meeting will be held at All Saints, Southerndown, on Monday, February 11 at 7pm.

The public, as always, are invited to attend.

THE public inquiry regarding the application for demolition of the Sea Lawns Hotel, Ogmere-by-Sea, and construction of nine apartments with car parking will now be held over two days, rather than one.

Interested parties are encouraged to attend and can make a request to give a verbal submission to the Inquiry, which will be held from 10am on February 26, 27 in the Vale Board Room, Dock Office, Barry.

MUSICAL TASTE
ON Monday, March 4 at 6.30pm in Coastlands Church (Tennyson Road, Barry), 'A Taste of Wales' will explore some of the heritage of Wales through song, with Cath Woolridge (singer and actress in Gavin and Stacey), world-renowned tenor Huw Priddy, singer and actor Peter Karrie, Pukka Productions, and Gwaun y Nant School choir.

Tickets, £4, available from Mike Holmes on 07791 017727; e-mail: mikelholmes@coastlands.uk.com. Ticket price also includes a taste of Welsh food, served on arrival.



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Vale Scouts pitch their tents in Frostbite Camp!

SCOUTS from St Athan, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major braved the freezing weather last weekend to experience camping in sub-zero conditions.

After arriving at Miskin Mill Campsite, the Scouts pitched their tents and then embarked on three activity bases.

The correct use of a bowsaw and axe was demonstrated on the 'Scouting skills base', after which the Scouts were supervised as they used the tools. 'Backwoods Cooking' was new to some (the art of cooking on an open fire without pots, pans or utensils).

Stew in tin foil, fish in newspaper, muffin in an orange, all proved very popular – cooked in the glowing embers of the fire.

Circus Skills involved juggling, plate spinning and riding a unicycle, but not all at the same time!

Semaphore flags were used to send messages over long distances and showed the Scouts how to communicate if the battery was flat on their mobile phone.

The Scouts then tested their accuracy with a session of target archery.

After a hot meal, the

'Vale District Night Hike Competition' took place. Scouts dressed in waterproofs, high-viz jackets and each carrying a torch embarked on a five-mile incident hike along the footpaths and through the woodland around the villages of Pontyclun and Miskin.

At various locations along the way, they came across a challenge or incident which they had to solve or manage. The Scouts were judged on their teamwork, leadership and ingenuity.

Puzzle solving, a simulated car accident, get your team through the spider's web were all the more difficult wearing a head torch and working in the dark. At all times along the route the Scouts were supervised by an adult Scouting volunteer.

The hike finished just before midnight and after a hot cup of cocoa, everyone snuggled into their tents to await the snow drifts in the morning. No snow, but it did reach a very fresh minus two degrees with frost on the tents and boots that had found their way out of the tents all by themselves in the middle of the night!

After a breakfast of sausages, scrambled egg and beans, each Scout washed up their own dishes. After lunch, the camp was closed.

"It is a pleasure to attend an event like this without having to do all the hard work in the background. Many thanks to the Vale Explorer Scout Group, who planned, organised, supervised, cooked, ran activity bases during the day and the incident bases on the Night Hike."

Martin Booy was presented with his 'Wood Badge' training certificate and insignia on his appointment as Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts.

Gethin Charles is taking on the role of Group Scout Leader for the Cowbridge Group, a role that he will be able to run alongside his Scout Leader position that he has held for many years. "The Explorer Scout section is for young people between the ages of 14 -17 years and you don't have to have been in Scouts before to join," explained Kev and Ian, the Explorer Scout Leaders.

The section is run by Ian Jones and Kev Hicks and without their inspiration the Frostbite Camp would not have been possible. Other helpers included Nick Exley, Martin Taylor, Huw Lewis and Gethin Charles from the Cowbridge Group, John Myall, Martin Booy, Simon Miskin from the



Learning to cook in the open.

District Team, Jane and Paul Deere, Amy Hewett, from Llantwit Major Group, Wyn Gower, and Annelie Jenkins from St Athan, who either came for the whole weekend with their Scouts, or who gave of their time to help run activities during the event.

The Night Hike competition was very close, only 13 points separated all the teams out of a possible 200 and was won by a team of Scouts from Cowbridge.....by half a point!

If you would like to join the growing number of youngsters enjoying the Big Adventure with

Scouting, check out the national website www.Scouts.org.uk

Scouting is a voluntary organisation and as such is run locally by a team of dedicated volunteers.

If you feel that you could give some time to assisting, either hands on at the sharp end of the pencil by becoming a member of the committee structure as a secretary/treasurer or if you are handy with a paint brush/mop and bucket, contact valescouts@btinternet.com

SIMON MISKIN
(District Commissioner, Vale District)



There's more than one way to get a message across!

Poet is festival patron

GILLIAN CLARKE, the National Poet of Wales, will be the patron of this year's Barry Arts Festival, from May 24-June 2.

The festival team are thrilled to have such a prestigious literary figure as patron and welcome Gillian's acceptance of the invitation as an endorsement of the 2013 event, and hopefully future festivals.

The full programme for this year will be

announced in the coming weeks, and there will be regular opportunities to support the festival and Canolfan Porthceri Centre, the group leading the organisation for BAF, starting with a St David's day quiz at the West End Club on Friday, March 1.

Admission will be £3 per person, and there will also be an opportunity to kick off the festival yarn-bombing project by buying crocheted daffodils, courtesy of

project leader Pat Temple-Murray.

The singing project 'Vale voices do choral gems' begins on Monday, February 25, at 5.45pm in Holy Trinity Church hall.

To find out more about Barry Arts Festival go to www.barryartsfestival.co.uk – and don't forget to come to the West End Club on Friday, March 1! Email dot@porthceri.co.uk for more details. **DC**

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RUGBY COMMUNITY JOINS TOGETHER TO HELP WELSH PROSTATE CHARITY

THE rugby community came together last week in Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion to offer its support to a charity which has grown from small beginnings in Cowbridge, to its current status as a national campaigning body in Wales.

Founded by Ray and Lyn Murray of Cowbridge, together with urological consultant Andy Thomas of the Princess of Wales Hospital, Prostate Cymru now enjoys an increasingly high profile.

In its short life, the charity has provided Wales with a world-class centre of excellence for laser treatment of prostate diseases – the Green Light Laser in the Princess of Wales Hospital at Bridgend.

The charity also provides information to the men of Wales through an awareness campaign launched with the support of the Welsh Rugby Union.

The major current campaign is fundraising for a new robotic surgical system for Wales to treat early prostate cancer.

The charity is also raising funds to sustain the Green Light Laser equipment, installed in Bridgend for which Prostate Cymru has just funded the latest technological equipment – and guaranteed the service for a further three years.

At the National Eisteddfod at Llandow in August 2012, Prostate Cymru launched a petition, with the help of Rhodri the Robot, to bring Laparoscopic Robotic Surgery to Wales.

There are 41 robotic systems already in England, but none in Wales. The Prostate Cymru petition is now on the Welsh Government website and gathering online signatures by the day.

Last Friday's event, 'A Knight with the Captains' hoped to raise £7,500. Each table at the dinner was hosted by either a Welsh international rugby captain, an international, or a Welsh celebrity champion.

The Master of Ceremonies was Paul Fielding who introduced the guests of honour, Professor Sir Mansel and Lady Aylward, as well as the other guest speakers and performers.

Professor Sir Mansel Aylward CB, is chairman of Public Health Wales, and the director of the Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research at Cardiff University.

The other guests included singer Jessica McNeill from Neath, comedian and entertainer Mike Osman, Mark Colbourne MBE, the World and Paralympic cycling gold medallist, Dai John, 'the Prostate Man', and the Welsh rugby international of Pontypool Front Row fame, Graham Price.

Also on hand to lightning sketch those present at the dinner, was caricaturist and entertainer 'Picasso' Griffiths.

Paul Fielding started the evenings proceedings by calling for a minute's silence in memory of Mervyn Davies, 'Merv the Swerve' who passed away on March 15, 2012.

He also apologised for the absence of the organisers of the event, the chairman of the Prostate Cymru Charity Trustees, Ray Murray who was ill, and Andy Thomas, who was in Phoenix, Arizona, lecturing on Green Light Laser surgery.

Paul called upon the Rev Paul Floc, Minister of Trinity Church, Porthcawl, to say Grace.

During the course of the evening, Paul introduced the Welsh captains, the internationals and other celebrities.

These were Gareth Llewellyn, Ieuan Evans, John Devereux, John Lloyd, Bob Norster, Gareth Edwards, Eddie Butler, Scott Gibbs, Paul Thorburn, Bleddyn Bowen, Ellis Jenkins, Ray Giles, Richard Webster and Mark Colbourne.

The evening ended with a raffle of rugby memorabilia, with the lucky numbers being drawn by Sir Mansel and Lady Aylward.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Prostate Cymru has great support from the sporting community, and a number of events are planned for this summer.

On April 17, the charity golf day season tees off with a special event, supported by Coun Eric Hacker, the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, at the prestigious Vale Resort Golf Course.

Two days later, on April 19, another golf day, this time supported by the Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf, takes place at the Aberdare Golf Club. Founded in 1921 it is one of the best courses in the area.

Pyle and Kenfig GC hosts the next mayoral golf day on April 26, this time supported by the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Marlene Thomas.

The course, which is in the Kenfig National Nature Reserve, is a championship course, ranked in the top 10 in Wales, and is noted for the way the back nine weaves through huge sand dunes.

On May 31, just a few miles away as the crow flies, Prostate Cymru and GLAZE return once again for the annual charity golf day at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club – famously described as one of the 12 finest courses in the world by the late Tom Scott, a former editor of Golf Illustrated.

Yet another local course will be supporting the Prostate Cymru golf days out on June 13, when the

REPORT and PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

Porthcawl Lions organise their annual charity golf day at the Grove Golf Club.

In June, the focus switches to cycling, when over the weekend of June 14-16, the annual 'Cyclothon', Gwlad Cymru 2013, goes ahead.

This event is organised by the former Welsh international rugby player, Ray Giles, the cyclothon taskmaster for the fifth successive year.

Ray is keen to hang on to his title of 'champion fundraiser' – gained through the success of this ride from north Wales to south!

Anyone interested in knowing more about this cycling challenge should check the website www.prostatecymru.com

However, the biggest event of the year promises to take place over 14 days (July 18 to August 1) in Ecuador.

Prostate Cymru supporters will try to complete the 'Touch the Sun' challenge in the Avenue of Volcanoes in Ecuador.

The 14 days involve climbing five volcanoes (average height 15,000 ft and, apparently, this challenge takes you closer to the sun than any other point on earth!)

The team leaders for this challenge, Andy Thomas and Peter Croke, have a team of 14 intrepid explorers lined to hit the heights in Ecuador.

For more information on this challenge, go to www.touchingthesun.com

Ray Murray of Cowbridge, the joint founder of the charity, told The GEM: "There are several other local events throughout the remainder of this year, and it is all a part of our campaign to improve the treatment of prostate cancer and other conditions in Wales."

"We have an ongoing Welsh Government petition to bring a Robotic surgical system to Wales, please join in at www.assemblywales.org/epetition-list-of-signatories.htm?pet_id=820"



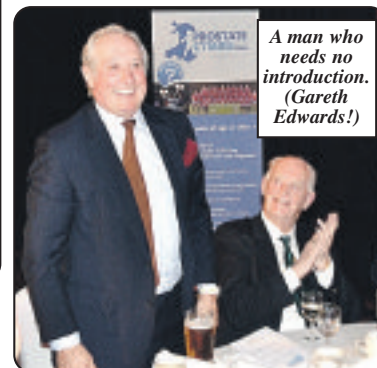
Ieuan Evans takes a bow.



Bridgend favourite John Lloyd.



A man who needs no introduction. (Gareth Edwards!)



Sweating inside the Rhodri the Robot costume was Lloyd Stocky, pictured with organiser Paul Fielding (left) and rugby legend Graham Price.



'Picasso' Griffiths with his lightning caricatures of Mark Colbourne and GEM photographer Keith E. Morgan.



Richard Webster.



'Dai John, the Prostate Man'.



ABOVE: John Devereux.



Bleddyn Bowen.



Paralympic cyclist Mark Colbourne.



Vocalist Jessica McNeill.



Rhodri the Robot welcoming the guests of honour, Professor Sir Mansel and Lady Aylward.



Scott Gibbs with pavilion staff and Rhodri the Robot.

Vale schools serve up badminton success



ABOVE: THE WINNERS WITH THEIR TROPHY.

TEENAGERS from the Vale are aiming to serve up national success in badminton after shining in a regional schools' competition organised by Sport Wales' 5x60 scheme.

After taking on all-comers from across south-east Wales, the boys' team from Stanwell School and the girls from Cowbridge Comprehensive School emerged victorious in a competition for pupils in years 7 and 8.

In matches played at Penarth Leisure Centre, the Vale schools edged out Bryn Celynog Comprehensive School from Rhondda Cynon Taf to secure their places in the national stages of the tournament that will be held in Newtown on March 20.

They will be joined by the years 9 and 10 girls from Stanwell and the boys from Cowbridge, who both qualified for the national stages, after finishing runners-up behind Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf from Cardiff.

Both the younger and older age tournaments featured pupils whose talents have been unearthed during lunchtime and after-school sports sessions run by the 5x60 scheme – which is a Sport Wales initiative overseen locally by the Vale Council's sports and play development team.

Ben Williams, the Vale Council's Active Young People Co-ordinator, said: "Congratulations to everyone who took part and good luck to the schools who are going forward to the national stages next month. The Vale schools will be hoping to follow in the footsteps of the girls' team from Stanwell that took the courts by storm last year to bring home the national title."

For further details about the 5x60 scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan please visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/5x60; you can also keep up to date with the latest 5x60 and community sports news from the Vale of Glamorgan by following @valesportsnews on Twitter.

Six of the best for under-13s

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-13A put in an excellent performance on a heavy pitch beating Wenvoe 6-1.

Sam Snaith scored a hat trick and was named man of the match; Luke Beattie, Liam Butcher and Lewis Brown also got on the score sheet.

Cowbridge under-14s miss out in the cup

COWBRIDGE under-14s produced their best performance of the season against Penarth, only to miss out on a place in the next round of the Blues Cup – due to a number of disappointing decisions by the referee which eventually cost them the game, losing 17-12.

The home side, most of whom were Blues squad members, were made to fight for possession from the very start and their pack were outplayed from start to finish by a Cowbridge eight who were forced into making a number of positional changes just before kick off.

The visitors dominated both territory and possession and only desperate tackling from the home side prevented them from scoring. Owain Jenkins, Harry Hopkins and Mat Keating continually broke through their opponents' defence, to set up chance after chance and cross the Penarth line – only to be brought up just short each time.

Penarth opened the

scoring after 20 minutes with a try which was converted. Within minutes, they scored again with an interception on the halfway line, and led 12-0 at half time.

Cowbridge dominated again in the second half, and were finally rewarded with a try from No 8 James Holder, who worked tirelessly throughout the game.

A second try soon followed from centre Dan Bunney, which was converted by Cai Evans, to leave the teams level with 10 minutes remaining.

Further controversial refereeing decisions during this final period left the Cowbridge players devastated.

Cowbridge flanker Duncan Ace charged down the ball before gathering to dive over the line, only to have the try disallowed.

With just a minute left, and with Cowbridge having one foot in the next round, Penarth were awarded a try, which included two forward passes.

Outstanding in the pack were Josh Jones, Tom Edwards and Ben Terry, and the pick of the backs were Seán Davies, Osian John and Joe Nott. **ML**

BUDDING COACHES NAMED

THE 15 budding sports coaches taking part in the Vale Council's 'Coaches of the Future' programme have been unveiled.

The talented teenagers, all aged between 16 and 17, are being given a springboard towards a future in sports coaching and leadership by the exciting training programme.

The enthusiastic youngsters taking part in the 'Coaches of the Future' programme are: Kathryn Gardner, Callum Jalil, Rory Hay, Athena Cowley, Steven Warrington, Elle Gwatkin, Emily Powell, Sian Davies, Gareth Lennon, Connor Hetherington, Olivia Parry, Adam Rees, John Miles, David Gent and Lichaba West.

The 15 have varying levels of coaching experience, with some already helping out at their local sports club or school, while others are passionate about helping other people and are keen to make their first steps into coaching.

The initiative was launched at the Civic Offices in Barry with a special reception that included a visit from rising Welsh swimming star Jazz Carlin, who spoke to the group about the positive impact that her swimming coaches have made so far in her career.

Jazz was also joined at the launch by Lucie Johnson, a sixth form pupil from Cowbridge Comprehensive School who is one of the Vale of Glamorgan's three Gold Sports Ambassadors.

Following the launch event, the young budding coaches enjoyed a week's training during Half Term where they gained some invaluable first-hand experience and over the coming months they will be helping with the running of several school and community sports festivals and events.

The 'Coaches of the Future' programme is part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's sports and play development team's 'Make it Happen 2013' campaign.

It aims to build on the momentum of the London 2012 Games and inspire local people of all ages and abilities to get involved in sport this year, whether it be to play a social game of five-a-side each week, join a new sports club, or get into sports coaching or volunteering.



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NEW PRICE **ST ATHAN VILLAGE - £209,950**

Modern spacious detached three storey residence with integral garage Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room, Dining Room/4th Bedroom, Bathroom. Two bedrooms and Cloakroom/WC to first floor and one further bedroom to the lower ground floor. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows for the most part. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Ref 667D

NEW PRICE **LLANTWIT MAJOR - £234,950**

Modern four bedroom detached house with integral Garage and Conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Modern Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom, PVC rear Porch, En-suite to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazing. Double width driveway and south facing landscaped rear garden. Ref 676D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £149,950

Modern well maintained three bedroom mid link house situated in a sought after area comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern re-fitted Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Open plan garden to front and enclosed rear garden. Allocated parking for two vehicles. Freehold. Ref 680D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £175,000

Established three bedroom double fronted semi-detached house occupying a corner position comprising Hallway, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway and good size gardens. Ref 689D

NEW ON THE MARKET **LLANTWIT MAJOR - £117,500**

Modern four bedroom semi-detached house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining room, Rear Hall, Cloakroom, Bathroom/Wet room. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Garden to front and rear. Greenhouse and outbuilding. Ref 694D

NEW ON THE MARKET **LLANTWIT MAJOR - £169,950**

Modern extended three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room, Side Hall, Shower Room/Cloakroom, Dining Room/Sitting room with French doors to rear. Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Ref 695D

NEW ON THE MARKET **LLANTWIT MAJOR - £215,000**

Modern well maintained three bedroom detached house and garage comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining area with patio doors to rear, En-suite shower room, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Driveway and low maintenance garden to front and rear. Ref 696D

AVAILABLE FROM MARKET **LLANTWIT MAJOR - £215,000**

Modern two bedroom detached bungalow with attached garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom/WC. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Ref 697D

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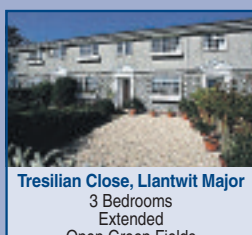
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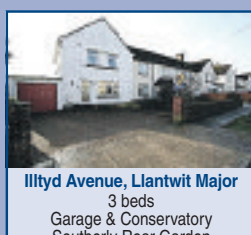
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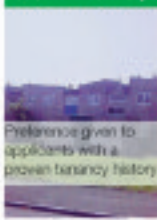
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FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Amroth Court	25	Gold	02/10/12
Bella Vue Close	22	Bronze	19/01/11
Catherine Mezey	21	Silver	08/02/12
Narberth Court	18	Silver+	08/11/11
North Walk	6	Silver	19/06/12
Treharne Road	43	Gold	19/06/12

Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this change will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

Examples

A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be two bedrooms, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit.

A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be three bedrooms, so no deduction would apply.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.



Pyle and Porthcawl clubs stage rugby match in aid of Sandville



Corey congratulating the Pyle RFC captain, his dad Gareth.



Corey Cox with his father Gareth in the hydro pool at Sandville.



Corey with his mum Natasha, dad Gareth, grandfather Paul and uncle baby Taylor.



Pyle RFC president Lindsay Morgan, Lord of Kenfig, presenting Pyle RFC captain Gareth Cox with the Sandville Rugby Challenge Rose Bowl.



Corey Cox leading the Pyle RFC team out on to the field.



LEFT: The Sandville Rugby Challenge Rose Bowl is handed to Sister Gwyneth Poacher, for safe keeping at Sandville Court. **Left to right:** Jemma, a Sandville student; Sister Gwyneth Poacher; Pyle RFC captain Gareth Cox, with Corey holding the Rose Bowl; Pyle RFC president Lindsay Morgan, Lord of Kenfig.

Report and pictures by KEITH E MORGAN

JUST over 18 months ago, six-year-old Corey Cox of Pyle was diagnosed with Perthes, a potential crippling disease of the hip joint causing pain to the hip, groin and knees and resulting in restricted movement and walking problems.

At present, Corey cannot take part in any impact sports, and his love of rugby and football is limited to that of a spectator.

Every week, Corey and his father Gareth visit the Sandville Self Help Centre to use the hydro pool to help promote the healing process.

As a result of these sessions, an expected operation on Corey has been postponed indefinitely.

Corey's family greatly appreciate the help given by Sandville and helped to organise a charity match between Pyle RFC and Porthcawl RFC, to raise funds for the Sandville.

They were aided in this kind and generous gesture by sponsors David Williams, Electrical; Carole's Burger Van at Braceys; Project Tiles; Tegfryn Store, Pyle; Braceys; Mile Plant and Tool Hire; Paul Cox; Boyd Davies Recycling; OBI Camping

and Leisure; Jeff Woolcock Transport; Sharon and Peter Lyons; Pyle Garden Centre; Keedwell Plumbing as well as many individuals and others, too many to name, who have donated prizes for the raffle.

Young Corey Cox led out the Pyle team, captained by his father Gareth Cox, for what turned out to be a very entertaining game of rugby. There was a fine rain in the air throughout the game and ground conditions soon became very muddy.

Nevertheless, both teams played with vigour and enthusiasm, as would be expected from the two close rivals.

Porthcawl opened the scoring with a penalty which was quickly followed by an unconverted try from Pyle, who eventually went on to win by a convincing 25-15.

Following the game, a new trophy, the Sandville Rugby Challenge Rose Bowl, was presented to Gareth Cox, the captain of Pyle, the first team to win the trophy, by the president of Pyle RFC, Lindsay Morgan, Lord of Kenfig.

The trophy, which will be competed for each year, was then handed to Sister Gwyneth Poacher, by Gareth for safe keeping at Sandville Court. Gwyneth thanked all those present for the great support that they were giving to the Sandville Foundation.

A substantial amount of money was collected for the Sandville Self Help Centre and this is to be presented by young Corey Cox on the Pyle RFC rugby pitch to Sister Gwyneth Poacher, of Sandville at the next home game of Pyle RFC.

The trophy, which will be competed for each year, was then handed to Sister Gwyneth Poacher, by Gareth for safe keeping at Sandville Court. Gwyneth thanked all those present for the great support that they were giving to the Sandville Foundation.

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Phoenix impress in defeat

CONSIDERING the status of the opposition, this performance by Pencoed Phoenix against Cardiff Quins ladies arguably will go down as the best Phoenix performance since their 2010 formation.

With Premiership high flyers Cardiff Quins dominating and recycling possession in wave after wave of attacks it took a monumental Phoenix defensive effort from one to fifteen to stay in the match.

Phoenix No8 Amy Stevens posed the first threat to the Quins breaking some 35 metres blindsided from a scrum before being brought down only metres out. Quins countered and both Sarah Hughes and Jade Mullen brought off fine cover tackles to deny the visitors.

Phoenix second row Hannah Brunskill then won good line out ball for fly half Robyn Wilkins to place a long kick into the Quins 22. Wilkins then punishing the visitors from the resultant penalty.

Phoenix hooker Molly Humphreys then did well to take a difficult restart before setting up possession. However the Premiership side were winning the lions share of the ball and only a last ditch tackle from Brunskill kept the Quins out. A double hit from Phoenix skipper Marina Newth and fellow back rower Stevens typified the Phoenix defensive effort.

Phoenix centre Katie Murphy then broke down the left before the Quins countered and driving play into the home 22 saw Beth Price do well to hold up the drive just short of her line.

Phoenix full back Stephanie Niblett and

wing Leanne Burnell then cleared up dangerous Quins raids. The Cardiff side then struck from their own 22, bursting clear from the edge of a ruck to race away to score despite the valiant effort of Mullen to get back.

Phoenix then turned defence into attack and Wilkins added a second penalty from wide out, and incredibly against the odds Phoenix led 6-5 at the break.

The Quins opened the second half with a series of pick and drives, and the increasing defensive workload of Phoenix was beginning to take its toll, and with a number of Phoenix bodies littered around their 22 a visitors score was almost inevitable.

Depleted by injury Phoenix continued to defend as if their lives depended on it, however with their back row disrupted, two tries from the visitors in as many minutes brought the Premiership side visible relief.

Any thoughts of a Phoenix capitulation were put firmly to bed with the home side enjoying their best period of the match, creating a number of chances.

First centre Mullen broke taking a good angle, then soccer convert Leanne Burnell showed her round ball skills with the ball down the touchline, unfortunately the home side efforts came to naught. A Wilkins interception almost worked Mullen clear and Phoenix were finishing strongly, their fitness levels holding up well on the heavy ground taking into consideration their massive tackle count.

Phoenix replacement scrum half Sam Trickey then caught the eye putting in two hits in quick succession, and driving play from Newth initiated a forward offensive with prop forward Alana Shakespeare showing good hands before scattering a number of Quins defenders in determined fashion into their 22, well supported by industrious 2nd row Kathryn Stonehouse; unfortunately Phoenix unable to get the try their total commitment deserved, as the whistle blew on a 20-6 defeat.

Robyn Wilkins was chosen by Quins as the Phoenix player of the match, though every Phoenix player can feel proud of their efforts, and surely the squad can take confidence from this performance against the second placed team in the Premiership.

On Sunday, Phoenix host Pontyclun in a National Cup pool match; 2.30pm kick-off.

PL/MR

TR

AFC's five-star show!

LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC travelled to Blaenau Gwent on Saturday to play Abertillery Bluebirds in their next Welsh League fixture.

Following another week of mixed weather the pitch was declared fit and the game kicked off on a bright sunny day in the Gwent Valley but with the Major starting without two of their senior players, Shaw and Lindsay.

Following a slow start and both teams giving away possession all too easily it was the visitors keeper who was called into action when Whitlam made a great save going down low to his right side.

This spurred the away team into action who then took the lead on 19 minutes with a neat goal from Leigh Pratt following a good ball played through by player coach Robinson. The goal settled the Major and on 30 minutes Lee Jones struck a good shot over

the bar and this was closely followed with a great save from the Bluebirds keeper when the recently signed Andre Griffiths broke through from midfield, beat three defenders before a good on target.

The Major were playing well and Tom Rees had a good shot which was just wide and then, following another good through ball from Robinson, striker Nash struck his shot just wide. The visitors went in at half time with just the one goal lead.

The home side came out in the second half with a "spring in their tails" and had several good chances at goal with the veteran Whitlam being kept busy in the visitors goal; he then made a magnificent save to keep the Major in front.

This was followed shortly afterwards by a goal line clearance from the ever energetic Rees. The Major brought on the

fresh legs of Morgan and Roscrow replacing Faux and Constant and it did the trick with Nash scoring well following another great run by Griffiths.

Griffiths then scored one for himself before Nash got his second and Griffiths another to go 5 up. Dawes replaced the tiring Jones who had as ever covered every blade of grass on the pitch. The Bluebirds got one back before the end and surprisingly it was the 5-1 score line it was the Major's keeper, Whitlam, who was awarded man of the match with some terrific saves at crucial times in the game.

The Major remain in third place in the table and welcome Cardiff Grange Harlequins to their Windmill Lane ground on February 23 for the first of three consecutive home games with no fixture on March 2 then Risca on March 9 and Newcastle Emlyn on March 16.

Mules slip to loss - but make cup progress



Jason Davies and Matthew Legge get involved.
PICTURES BY PETER GILLING

Kenfig under-15s still sharp after long break

FOLLOWING a lengthy break due to bad weather Kenfig Hill under-15s finally played this re-scheduled game at home against South Gower in the quarter-finals of the Osprey Cup.

Following an early exchange of penalties Kenfig Hill scored the first of their seven tries through Scott Hodgson.

The next Kenfig try came shortly after with the forwards getting the upper hand in loose play. The ball was taken on by both Josh Dixon and Ethan Jenkins with quick recycling giving front-foot ball for Joshua Hodgson to finally pick up and barge his way over.

With the forwards getting the upper hand in the scrum, Kenfig dominated territory in the first half but the next score was down to the quick thinking of scrum half Connor Tantom.

A penalty was awarded to Kenfig five metres out from the try line in the shadow of the posts. While the opposition looked out wide waiting for Tantom to throw a long ball he took a quick tap to himself, turned and scampered over the line without a hand being put on him. Liam Evans added his second conversion of the game.

Evans added the final score of the half chasing a long kick into the Gower 22, stripping the ball off the opposition cover defence and touching down to make the half time score 27-3 in favour of Kenfig Hill.

With the game effectively over, Kenfig took their feet off the gas in the early stages of the second half with South Gower enjoying their best period with sustained pressure in the Kenfig 22.

However they did not score during this period and their pressure resulted in a break away try being scored by Kenfig fly half Evans once again.

The ball was ripped out of a Gower players hands by Ethan Jenkins where it fell to Evans who with a broken defence in front of him showed good pace to run from his own 22 yard line and finish under the posts.

The sixth try came from a chip by Tantom into the Gower 22 for wing Sam Young to collect the ball off a fumble to score a well taken try in the corner.

The final try summed up the game quite well at that stage, with Kenfig flanker Ethan Jenkins collecting the ball unopposed from a drop out 22 by Gower and returning it without serious challenge to make the final score 44-3 to Kenfig.

A comfortable win and scoreboard in their favour does not tell the whole story from the home side's point of view. Kenfig had to contend with a number of injuries before the start of this game meaning they had a bare 15 players to start.

Within the forwards there were four 'regulars' missing, meaning a number of players had to play out of position. The forwards, however, gave a solid platform for the backs and were the stronger team in the scrum.

Special mention to No.8 Josh Hodgson and flanker Ethan Jenkins who were both outstanding as part of a strong pack effort.

The backs were clinical in their finishing with special mention to fly half Liam Evans, who finished the game with a points tally of 19.

Man of the match went to Ben Pearson who, not playing in his favoured position at flanker, covered a lot of ground and tackled well to be a constant thorn in the opposition's side.

JC

Chess round-up
PORTHCAWL pulled off a surprise win by 3.5 to 1.5 against Bridgend A, in division 2 of the East Glamorgan chess league and rise to fifth place, putting themselves in with a chance of gaining promotion to the first division.

With only Barry looking certain to gain promotion, and with a game in hand against the bottom placed Pontypridd, they should secure the title.

So with only six games left to play in division 2, the battle to secure second and third place, and gain promotion to division 1, is wide open.

For more information on Bridgend chess visit www.bridgendchess-club.com.

MK

THE game between Kenfig Hill and Llangennech started at a fast and furious pace, with some crunching tackles going in from both sides.

After 15 minutes, the home side started a move from their 25 and prop Ben Leung was on hand to take the final pass and cross the line.

The Mules came back strongly and second row Ben Jones showed some delicate skills as he side-stepped the covering defence to score, outside half Lloyd Giles putting over the conversion.

The game continued at pace with some good rugby being played by both sides, but some poor tackling by Kenfig Hill saw full back Ellis Phillips score for Llangennech, with outside half Nico Setaro scoring with the conversion.

From the kick off the Mules attacked and put the home side under pressure but unfortunately, the game turned when Llangennech intercepted a pass close to the line and fly kicked the ball away.

A chase followed and the Kenfig Hill covering defender slipped, allowing the Llangennech right winger, Rhys Davies, to kick ahead, gather the ball and score.

Kenfig Hill attacked strongly for the rest of the half with captain and right winger Chris Tossell making some dazzling runs, but some good covering tackles kept the Mules at bay.

The second half continued in the same vein as the first, with both sides playing fast open rugby with some tough and hard forward play with the Mules threatening the line on several occasions.

Llangennech then scored with a move that would have graced many a game at a higher level. Their backs came upfield with a good passing move and when they could not penetrate the covering defence, Setaro chipped ahead and left winger Jevon Barnes caught the ball and crossed the line, Setaro putting over the conversion.

Bridge results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are Wednesday, February 13:

First John Henson and Geoff Tinkle, second Dave Lea and Bill Turner, third equal Irene Thomas & Graham Jones and Steve Burgoyne & Ann Fox; Friday, February 15 - first Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner, second John Henson and Terry Dolan, third Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams.

Final score: Llangennech 24, Kenfig Hill 7.

While Kenfig Hill were disappointed by the final result there were some good performances, with a man of the match effort by captain Chris Tossell.

Jamie Uren had another good game propping against some tough opposition, Shaun Burnell stood out in the centre with Mike Kennedy playing well at full back; and Lloyd Bradley played well when he came on as substitute outside half.

There was a cheer from the Mules supporters when veteran scrum half Ryan Giles came on as substitute for the last quarter. Ryan, who retired from playing, answered the call when, due to injury and work commitments, the Mules did not have scrum half cover and with some delicate touches showed he had not lost any of his considerable ability.

GO'S SEVEN SISTERS 13 KENFIG HILL 24

The previous Saturday, the Mules eventually overcame a dogged Seven Sisters XV to progress through to the next round of the WRU Swalec Cup.

The Mules expected a tough encounter against a team riding high in Division Two West and that's exactly what they got.

The Mules suffered an early blow when back row man Steve Gillard limped off with an ankle injury but fortunately, the Mules had an effective substitute in Matthew Legge, who formed a powerful back row unit with flanker Jason Davies and club debutant Teaghan Price.

Seven Sisters edged a closely-fought first half, kicking two penalties to one by Mules outside half Lloyd Giles.

Seven Sisters then extended their lead straight from the kick off, following a slick backline move to score a try under the posts that was duly converted.

From that moment the Mules took the upper-hand in all aspects of the game and played the majority of the match in the Seven Sisters half.



ABOVE: Teaghan Price makes an offload

The Mules' first try

was a fine individual effort by winger David Pound who was making his first team debut. The try was converted from far out by Giles to reduce Seven Sisters lead to three points.

The Mules continued to put the home team under pressure and a second try was scored by centre Marc Fitzgerald, who crashed over from

close range.

This was also converted by Giles to put the Mules in the lead for the first time in the match.

The Mules were very much in the ascendancy and flanker Legge finished off a fine move to score the Mules' third try which again was converted by Lloyd Giles to leave the final score

Seven Sisters 13, Kenfig Hill 24.

There were many standout performances all over the park for Kenfig Hill especially from the back row unit, second row Ben Jones and winger David Pound.

This was a quality display by the Mules which augurs well for the rest of the season.

PH

Athletic defeated

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48)

Inside the last minute of the half, an Athletic attack inside the students' 22 broke down.

The students showed great presence to see an overlap on the left hand side and quickly moved the ball wide for No 8 Sam Cross to finish a length-of-the-field move with a try wide out to put the home side 8-3 ahead at half time.

The Athletic were forced to change injured prop Wayne Fooks at half time and suffered another major blow when their other influential prop, Liam Griffin, was forced off with a knee injury.

The Athletic scrum had been under pressure in the first half, now the students turned the knife in this set piece.

Firstly following a succession of five-metre scrums, the referee felt the Athletic scrum had infringed once too often and awarded a penalty try which Cooke converted to stretch the lead to 15-3.

Back came the students and another five-metre scrum saw No 8 Sam Cross go over from a pushover try. Cooke converted for a 22-3 lead to his side.

With 20 minutes to go a bonus point victory looked on the cards. However to the Athletic's credit they did not cave in and in fact they dominated this final quarter.

Full back Phillips, with a clever take deep inside his half, swivelled out of a tackle and made 40 metres along the touchline before a desperate tackle brought him down.

Hooker Simon Mustoe and flanker Callum McCleod were brought down inches from the students' try line.

During this period, the youngsters showed they could defend in an organised manner as well as attack, and ran out deserved victors, though denied the bonus point victory they craved.

The Athletic's next league game is



ABOVE: Jonathan Phillips makes a break.
PICTURE BY KERRY FOTHERGILL

at Glamorgan Wanderers on March 2. This is a 'must win' game for both sides as they look to preserve their Championship status next season.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 2nd XV 40 RUMNEY 2nd XV 7
Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV recorded a bonus point victory, running in six tries in a 40-7 win at home to their Rumney counterparts in a 2nd XV Championship fixture.

Full back Johnny Nation ran in a try brace and there were single touch downs from flanker Nathan Holman and Tom Phillips and prop Aled Thomas and outside half Tom Cole.

Cole converted three tries with half backs Scott Govan and Nick Jones adding a conversion apiece.

Newcomer flanker Tom Phillips turned in a man of match performance in an all-round good team performance.

AB

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Tondu under-13s defeated

ON Sunday, Tondu under-13s travelled west to Burry Port.

The game started badly with a knock on right from the start, which resulted in an unconverted try for the hosts.

Tondu responded with good handling between forwards and backs and recycling the ball a number of times for I. Morris to dive over wide out.

Tondu were prominent for the rest of the half with a number of players outstanding in attack and defence, in particular M.David, J.Morgan, J.Evans, E.Thomas and

B.Rich, but were unable to score again with the hosts scoring again on the brink of halftime.

Tondu attacked for most of the second half but they were taking the wrong option; however from one scrum T.Lloyd picked up and made good ground before being hauled down.

The ball was laid back for the supporting B.Rich to put C.Gibson in at the corner.

Tondu ran out of stamina in the last 10 minutes allowing the hosts two more tries.

Full time: Burry Port 20, Tondu 10.



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Family Notices

PARR Audrey

Peacefully on February 10, Audrey aged 90 years of Barry, dearly loved wife of the late Jack (Dr E J Parr), loving mother of Jacky and Chris, much loved grandmother of Angharad, Peter and Gwynfor, loved and respected mother-in-law of Nigel and Bethan, sister-in-law of Mary and lifelong friend of Mary.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonnnon. Funeral Thursday February 28, service 11am at All Saints Church, Barry followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donation in lieu, if desired, to Tenovus c/o J W James, 11 Fonnnon Road, Rhose, CF62 3DZ.

JONES Myfanwy

Peacefully on Tuesday, February 12, at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Myfanwy, of Manor-Haf, Llanblethian, Cowbridge. Beloved wife of Elwyn, devoted mother of Margaret and Mary and loving grandmother of Sian, Mari, Rhodri, Victoria and Gareth.

Funeral Thursday, February 28th, private service at the house, public at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. No flowers, but donations in lieu, if desired to Velindre Hospital, Cardiff c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonnnon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ, telephone 01446 710096 (Funeral Director).

HARRIS Beryl Sophia (Nee Beer)

Peacefully on Monday, 11th February at the Princess of Wales Hospital after an illness bravely fought, Beryl of Eastgate, Cowbridge, beloved wife of Roy, much loved aunt, godmother and friend.

Service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, 25th February at 10.45am followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. No flowers by request, donations in memory, if so desired to Cancer Research UK c/o Mrs J. Vaughan, Claypit Farm, Colwinston, CF71 7NL.

McKenzie Charlotte

Carolyn and family would like to thank the many friends for all the messages of sympathy, cards with such thoughtful heartfelt words, and donations received by the British Heart Foundation in celebration of Charlotte's life.

We are grateful for the kindness and support we have been given by so many people and would like to express our appreciation and say thank you to everyone involved in Charlotte's care and support.

CLISSETT Lyn

Passed away on February 8th in Velindre Hospital. Dearly loved husband of Tina, loving father of Sally, Gary and Danny, grampy to Becca, Adam, Kyle, Gemma and Catie, brother to Bryn and wife Marion.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry until the funeral service on Monday, 25th February at the New Jerusalem Church, Tynwydd Road, Barry at 11.00am followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 12 noon. Family flowers only by request, donations in lieu, to Marie Curie Cancer Care may be sent c/o the funeral home.

TERRY BAGSTAFF

Sally and Stephanie would like to thank everyone for all their kind messages, help and support while we come to terms with our sudden sad loss. They are a great comfort.

Special thanks to Gaynor, Jason and First Responders, whose valiant efforts gave us time to say our goodbyes to our beloved Terry.

Birthday Memory

"POLLY"

25/2/49 to 27/2/12

Devoted Nan of the above Lloyd

and loving Mum to Andrea.

A special Sister and cherished Daughter.

Remembering our last days and your 63rd Birthday, a year ago when we were all together.

"The family chain is broken now, but memories live forever." - Night night Pauline R.I.P.

Situations Vacant



Airfield Environment Technician

A full time, permanent position has become available within the Cardiff Airport operations team for an individual to assist in the effective management of the aerodrome environment, including maintenance of the bird/wildlife deterrent on the airfield and surrounding areas. Other duties are included relating to daily operations, for example winter snow and ice clearance.

Skills required:

- Experience in operating agricultural and other mowing equipment
- Knowledge of crop spraying equipment, machinery maintenance and basic grass management
- A clean driving licence.

Desirable qualifications and experience:

- Driving on an airfield under the guidance of Air Traffic Control
- Pesticide application modules. PA 1, PA 2 and PA 6
- Qualified counterbalance forklift driver
- Telescopic materials handler
- Competent in the use of a chainsaw
- Competent in the use of an all terrain vehicle.

The airport operates 24/7 and flexibility will be required to attend at short notice for operational reasons e.g. adverse weather.

The successful candidate will be asked to provide a Criminal Record Check to comply with Department for Transport regulations.

To apply please send a CV and covering letter to the address below. Successful applicants will be invited to interview.

Closing date for applications: Friday March 8th 2013

Addressed to: Russ Clements, Head of Airfield Operations, Cardiff Airport, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3BD.

Family Notices

OWENS Howell

Howell of Barry passed away in hospital on 17th February. The Funeral will be held at A G Adams & Son (Barry) on 28th February 2013 at 1.15pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Vale Crematorium at 2.15pm. All enquiries at A G Adams & Son, telephone 01446 735400.

JENKINS Bertram

of Porthcawl formerly of Aberthyn. Passed away peacefully on Saturday, 16th February, aged 94. Beloved husband of the late Beryl, dear father of the late Michael and of Anne, and of Susan and Ted. Loving grandfather and great grandfather.

Funeral Service on Tuesday, 26th February at 1pm at Llanblethian Parish Church. Donations in lieu of flowers to Sensory Equipment for Heron House where Nerys attends daily c/o Mrs Anne Clarke.

JONES Valerie Jean (nee Green)

Sadly on February 10th at Rhydlafar Ward, St Davids Hospital, Valerie, aged 75 of Bonvilston, later of Cowbridge, passed peacefully.

Beloved wife of the late John, loving mother of Linda and Paul, dearly missed mother-in-law of Andrew, devoted Nan to her grandson Evan and sadly missed by her sister Pamela and family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonnnon. Funeral Tuesday February 26, service 1pm at Pendoylan Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research Wales or Kidney Research, both c/o J James, 11 Fonnnon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

BAKER Derek Keith

Peacefully on February 15 at Llandough Hospital, after a long illness, Derek of Barry. Beloved husband of Margaret, loving brother of Doris, John and Albert.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonnnon. Funeral Friday March 1, service and cremation 11.15am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonnnon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.



Communities Directorate - Bridgend County Borough Council
Traffic and Transportation Department

Temporary Civil Enforcement Officers

£15,725 - £16,830

Ref: E/D5051/WEL

Working in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan Council Areas

Previous applicants need not apply.

To download a job pack for the above post and apply online, or to view a list of our vacancies, please visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/jobs. Alternatively please telephone the Recruitment Team on 01656 643266 (24 hour recruitment line) quoting the appropriate reference number.

This post is subject to Job Evaluation.

Closing date: Wednesday 27th February 2013.

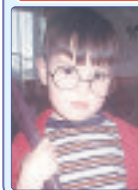
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Birthdays

HAPPY 16th BIRTHDAY



CONNOR PRICE

27th February 2013

Love you Millions.
All your family
x x x

LLOYD STOCK

18th February 2013

CONGRATULATIONS

you are now 18 and we are all so proud of you.

"A special Godson and Great Grandson"
Good luck in all your future endeavours
Love Awer and Keithy and Salls
x x x

Engagement

Dance & Bennetta

NANA SHIRL wishes to announce the ENGAGEMENT of her granddaughter

Claire Louise Dance to Darren Bennetta

on 14th February 2013

Congratulations and Good Luck to you both.

Love Nana Shiril and family
x x x

CONGRATULATIONS

Claire Dance & Darren Bennetta

on your

Engagement

on the 14th February, 2013

All our love and best wishes for the future Mum, Wyn, Rhys, Amy, Kristy, Mark and Ava
x x x

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Rotary club youth speaks at Area 8 final

The competitors.



Senior winners - Bryn Hafren comprehensive.



Intermediate winners - Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS O DAN DOEDDF CYLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF 1990, ADRAEN 257 A PHARAGRAFF 1 ATOOLEN 14 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 6 PENARTH) GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2013

Gwneid y Gorchymyn uchod ar 8 Chwefror 2013. Effaith y Gorchymyn fydd gwyro'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus a'n rhedeg o Baynt A (Cyfeirnod Rhwydweith Cenedlaethol: 316221 172751) hyd at Baynt D (C.Rh.C: 316221 173036), a chreu llwybr newydd rhwng Pwynt A (C.Rh.C: 316221 172751) a Pwynt D (Cyfeirnod Rhwydweith Cenedlaethol: 316221 173036), fel y mae map y Gorchymyn yn ei ddangos.

Gwch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r map yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Iffordd, Y Barr, CF63 4RT rhwng 9.00am a 4.30pm, ar unigryw ddarnod yn ystod yr wythnos. Bydd copiau o'r Gorchymyn a'r map ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Dylech gennysu unrhyw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau sydd gennych i'r Gorchymyn mewn llythyr a'i anfon at Gyfeirwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dockau'r Barr, Y Barr, CF63 4RT erbyn 21 Mawrth 2013, gan nodi'r rhesymau dros eich ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rheol a ddarbenwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhoi'r gadaernau bad y Gorchymyn yn ddilysrwydd. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon i Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer ei gadaernau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau naa tynnyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr ar pryd.

Dyddiedig 21 Chwefror 2013

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dockau'r Barr, Y Barr, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 1 OF SCHEDULE 14 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 6 PENARTH) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2013

The above Order was made on the 8th day of February 2013. The effect of the Order will be to divert the public footpath running from Point A (NGR 316221 172751) to Point D (NGR 316221 173036) and create an alternative footpath instead on a line running from Point A (NGR 316221 172751) to Point D (NGR 316221 173036) as shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order and the Order map may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Railway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, on any weekday. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to the Director of Development Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 21st day of March 2013. You should clearly state the grounds on which the representation or objection is made. If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may itself confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Welsh Government for confirmation, any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Dated this 21st day of February 2013

Director of Development Services, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT

THE Rotary Club of Barry have sponsored two successful teams in the Area 8 final of the Youth Speaks competition, one of several competitions organised by the Rotary movement specifically designed to develop students' skills.

The Area 8 final was held on Tuesday, February 19 in Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, Barry and was also hosted this year by the Rotary Club of Barry.

Winners in the intermediate section (11-13 year olds) were the team from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg whose chosen topic was "Are we clowns to experiment with cloning?"

The team was chaired by Nia Fenn, their speaker was Lois Aled and the vote of thanks was given by Caleb Darwin.

Lois Aled was also awarded the prize for the best speaker, Caleb Darwin for the best vote of thanks and Nia Fenn for the best chairperson.

In the senior section, Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School were the winners. Their team was chaired by Aimee Delaney, their speaker was Lissie Wallington and their vote of thanks was given by Sarah Jayne Griffiths.

The team's chosen topic was "Political correctness has gone mad, PC should now RIP."

Lissie Wallington also won the prize for the best speaker while Sarah Jayne Griffiths won the prize for the

best vote of thanks and Aimee Delaney for the best chairperson.

In line with national rules, both speakers had to answer a question from the audience to show their understanding of their chosen topic.

Judges were Graeme Milnes, Terry Brooks and Roger Mundy from Cardiff Speakers Club.

Speaking on behalf of the judges, Roger Mundy congratulated all participants, saying that they had spoken on a wide range of interest-

ing subjects and complimented the intermediate teams for showing a maturity beyond their years.

Rotary's Deputy District 1150 governor, Bob Wilson, thanked everyone who had supported the area final and wished the winning teams every success in the Rotary District 1150 Final (south, mid and west Wales).

This will be held in the Cardiff and Vale College, Colcot Road Campus on Friday, March 8. **JO**

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN (AC EITHRO GORCHYMYN DIDDYMU HAWLIAU O DAN DOEDDF CAFFAEL TIR) DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG LLWYBR MEIRCH CYHOEDDUS RHIF 31 LLANFLEIDDAN A LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 32 LLANFLEIDDAN GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2012

Bydd y gorchymyn uchod a wneid ar 17 Ionawr 2013, o dan Adran 119 o Ddeddf Prifffyrdd 1980, yn gwyro Llywybr Meirch Cyhoeddus Rhif 31, Llanfleiddan o'r gylindad A-B-C-D i A-E-F-B-G-H-I-D (fel y gweler ar y map), a Llywybr Cyhoeddus Rhif 32, Llanfleiddan o'r gylindad B-J-I-H-I-L.

Mae copi o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'i ddarparu, a chwech ei weld yn ystod yr wythnos ddarnod yn ystod yr wythnos. Bydd copiau o'r map a'r gorchymyn ar werth am £4.50 yr un.

Dylech gennysu unrhyw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau sydd gennych i'r gorchymyn mewn llythyr a'i anfon at Gyfeirwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dockau'r Barr, Y Barr, CF63 4RT erbyn 21 Mawrth 2013, gan nodi'r rhesymau dros eich ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rheol a ddarbenwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhoi'r gadaernau bad y Gorchymyn yn ddilysrwydd. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon i Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer ei gadaernau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau naa tynnyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr ar pryd.

Dyddiedig 21 Chwefror 2013

NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER (OTHER THAN AN ACQUISITION EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO 31 LLANFLEITHAN AND PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 32 LLANFLEITHAN PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2012

The above order, made on the 17th day of January 2013, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert Public Bridleway No 31 Llanfleithan from the alignment A-B-C-D to the alignment A-E-F-B-G-H-I-D as shown on the order map and Public Footpath No 32 Llanfleithan from the alignment B-J to the alignment H-I-L.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 21st day of March 2013. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may itself confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Assembly Government for confirmation, any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 21st day of February 2013

Choir cheques in for NSPCC



Left to right: Caryl Howe, Gareth Roberts, Lesley Hughes and Jo Leonard, community fundraising manager for south east Wales and musical director, Dorothy Connell.

Barry Male Voice chairman Gareth Roberts has made a £1200 presentation, on behalf of the choir, to representatives of the Barry branch of the NSPCC

Gareth explained: "This is a marvellous start to the choir's new year and a reminder that our 110th anniversary celebrations, in addition to providing entertainment for many, also offered support for local causes."

Lesley Hughes, chairperson of the Barry NSPCC, added: "I would like to thank the Barry Male Voice Choir and the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band for the wonderful festive Christmas concert given on our behalf at All Saints Church."

"Sadly, today there is a greater need than ever to support many children whose lives are blighted by neglect, poverty and abuse."

This year's choir programme includes another visit to Europe. Last year's visit to France is to be followed by an April visit to Gouda in Holland, famous for its cheese.

The choir's recently-recorded CD, celebrating 110 years of music making, will shortly be available for purchase and can be reserved from choristers.

New members to the choir are always welcome at practice held at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry on Mondays or Thursdays at 7.30pm; further details can be found on our website: www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk. **GJ**

XFOR fines

LOCAL authority support company, XFOR, issued 44 fixed penalty notices in the Vale during the week commencing February 11.

XFOR have been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering incidents and are taking a "zero tolerance" approach to environmental crimes, where offenders are issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75, without warning.

Welcome to the arrow hyundai VIP EVENT

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'Executive express' is a confidence-booster!

HAVE you made a new year's resolution? Perhaps more importantly, are you sticking to it? Whether you have or have not, here's one for you.... confidence.

We live in an increasingly tough world where those who exude this quality seem to survive and prosper. Donald Trump, Richard Branson and Alan Sugar all possess it in spades. Executives must be confident and others must have confidence in their abilities.

So how do you become more confident? These three hugely successful entrepreneurs all know they are good at what they do and can deliver what they say they will. We can all aspire to be like them.

But another sure-fire and perhaps quicker way is to drive a vehicle that has the gravitas and capability - that presents

the correct image and in so doing boosts self-confidence.

Get yourself behind the wheel of the BMW 320d Efficient Dynamics, the executive express. So what that Trump, Branson and Sugar would only ever consider the absolute top end 7-series, X5 or X6, we all have to start somewhere and the 320d four-door saloon is as good a place as any!

The test takes place in high winds and the low saloon dashes through them without noticing. Other motorists noticeably slow down as their vehicles buffet.

Add to the mix hard driving rain and it's enough to reduce us all to a crawl. But not in the 320d. You see because it's so low to the ground with excellent aerodynamics, it cuts through the elements like a sharpened knife. This ensures that the 320 driver can get to their destination safely and stealthily. Not just that but it's an efficient

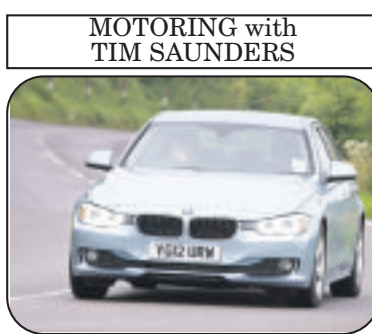
German, too, returning over 50mpg.

There are niggles, though, not least from my pregnant wife, who finds lowering herself into position awkward. However, when in place, she is comfy but "not as much as in the Volvo S80, which really cosseted", she recalls.

Twenty-three month daughter Harriett is developing her vehicle assessment skills and after doing a spot of pretend driving, she happily dozes in her Cosatto car seat. That's a rare occurrence, believe me.

There's a really uneven country lane near to where I live and usually driving along it at 30mph is enough to make wife Caroline feel ill, especially when pregnant. So it is very surprising to find that although the suspension in the 320d is hard, it soaks up the bumps very well indeed.

BMW has done well to squeeze 167bhp from a 1.6-litre diesel engine and it can be responsive,



BMW 320d Efficient Dynamics.

if required.

I do expect a BMW to be quieter, though, and am surprised to hear the telling rattle from inside the cabin. There can be a judder at standstill too when the engine is ticking over.

Equipped with engine stop/start, I am still to be convinced of the benefits. When I find myself in a painfully slow moving two-mile long queue, the engine cuts in and out at least 10 times. Although I am free-

wheeling to prevent this from happening, as soon as the Beemer hits 5mph the engine starts up again. It's not the smoothest of operations either. There are better.

As far the entertainment and navigation system, you need a degree in rocket science to operate it. I like to be able to easily find my favourite radio station without Caroline accidentally phoning BMW, but they understood and were very courteous.

However, I then stumble upon a switch on the steering wheel that allows you to operate the radio and other functions by voice command and it is actually very simple to operate.

The six-speed manual box can be indecisive, particularly when selecting third to overtake. It has to be pushed to the far left for reversing, which takes a little getting used to, over other cars.

Its cruise control is one of the best I have come across as it keeps exactly to the set speed, no matter whether it's travelling up or down a hill, and it allows for gear changes - few systems allow for this.

But you can't fault its poise and road holding. It is an excellent driver's car, with a good amount of power when required. I like the traditional handbrake.

The cabin is typically clinical with bags of black rubber and plastic as you can see from the video at testdrives.biz.

Some polished metal type plastic breaks up the monotony.

But then you're not looking at the dashboard when you're intently driving. The central armrest and the one on the driver's door is at the correct height to rest an arm - this isn't the case in many cars I drive.

After a busy day at the office, I return home one night to find that we need food so I dash to the supermarket. Its boot swallows the shopping with ease and there's a useful net that keeps everything in place. Night-time reveals helpful courtesy lights underneath the door handles so that you can see where they are.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "This is the sixth generation of the BMW 3 Series. The German four-door has been dominating the premium saloon market for some time now and this latest version has all the ingredients to do the same."

"This car has far more

to boast about than ever before. It's more spacious than its predecessor with a bigger boot, the interior feels classier than ever with a driver-focused cabin and high-end materials, while the handling is better too - which is no mean feat.

"Not only is the BMW 3 Series high on the list for private buyers though, it's also a sought-after company car."

Judging by the lustful glances and the number already on the roads, this model is set to become another hugely successful BMW.

New price range: £23,180 - £45,430; Engine: 1.6-litre; Economy: 53mpg; 0-60mph: 7.4secs; Top speed: 130mph; Power: 167bhp; Road tax: £0.

Watch the video: www.testdrives.biz <<http://www.testdrives.biz>>

Cowbridge junior rugby round-up

Under-9s just pipped

AT last, a dry day, which allowed the Cowbridge under-9s to play their first competitive game since December 9, as they travelled to near-neighbours Pontyclun.

Despite this enforced long lay off the Cowbridge boys showed little signs of rustiness as they put up a very competitive performance against in form Pontyclun.

The match was played over 4 quarters and a see saw game finally ended 11 tries to 9 in favour of the home side with both sides playing some attractive rugby.

Pontyclun started well scoring a couple of early tries but Cowbridge battled back through tries by Ruben Davies and Steffan Evans. A hard fought first quarter ended 3-2.

The second quarter saw Cowbridge dominate

as a combination of good tackling and the pace of Ruben Davies saw Cowbridge take the quarter 4-2.

Despite the heavy ground the pace and silky running of Ruben Davies, who scored all of Cowbridge's tries, was too much for the Pontyclun defence to handle.

Quarter 3 proved to be decisive as Pontyclun scored 3 tries with Cowbridge unable to reply as the Pontyclun defence closed Cowbridge out. This left the match situation 8-6 going into the last quarter.

The last quarter proved to be an even contest as both sides scored 3 tries a piece although Cowbridge had a try disallowed from Ollie Jones as his handoff was spotted by the referee. Legitimate tries came from Ruben Davies, Finlay Sullivan and Steffan Evans.

Despite having to train on an artificial surface where tackling practice is limited there were some noteworthy defensive efforts. In particular Finlay Sullivan, Harry Treharne, Steffan Evans, and Ruben Davies all tackled particularly well.

However, it was a good effort from all 17 boys on duty and a thoroughly enjoyable game was played in good spirit by both sides.

SQUAD: Harry Treharne, Ruben Davies, Will Ryan, Ollie Jones, Will Harris, Steffan Evans, Ethan Francis, Lewys Robins, Iolo Davies, Tom Co, Archie Lloyd, Finlay Sullivan, Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, Will Harris, Ben Hardy and Sam Payne.

MF

Under-7s entertain

COWBRIDGE under-7s travelled to Pontyclun in what proved to be a highly entertaining and competitive fixture.

Joe Davies scored the opening try for Cowbridge with a characteristic burst of pace. Pontyclun responded swiftly but Cowbridge maintained their pressure with a score from James Collingridge.

The match was finely balanced with tries from either side, with Henry Pugh powering over the line and Henry Whitehouse scoring after a nice set up from Joe Arentsen. Cowbridge were not to be outdone and after a spell of concerted pressure Ben Stephenson scored the winning try to give a 5-4 victory to Cowbridge.

In game 2 Pontyclun raced out of the blocks in the second game with 4 tries, with Sam Jackson running in Cowbridge's sole response. Cowbridge then regrouped and superb defence from Sam Sheppard, Osian Bruce and Ioan Phillips meant that Cowbridge kept in the game.

After being camped on Pontyclun's line, Sam Jackson added to his tally following sustained pressure by Sam Sheppard. Pontyclun responded with further scores either side of a try for Cowbridge from Osian Bruce after a great run from Mabli Davies. Final score 6-3 to Pontyclun.

Cowbridge got off to a great start in game 3 thanks to a darting run

from Joe Arentsen.

Pontyclun quickly responded and the pattern continued throughout the match.

William Martin and Charlie Berkley-Smith both had good runs, and Henry Pugh and Ben Stephenson were able to convert this pressure into tries. However Pontyclun took control of the game with two further tries giving them a 4-3 victory.

The final game proved to be a thrilling encounter. The key to victory was effective tagging and a few vital ones were missed allowing Pontyclun to run in a try.

Cowbridge were persistently looking for breaks in the defence, and James Lord weaved his way through to score a well-deserved try.

Cowbridge were able to seize victory in the closing minutes thanks to Sam Jackson powering over in the corner after a period of sustained pressure by the team. Final score 2-1 to Cowbridge.

KD

NICK LANDS THE DUNRAVEN CHASE

NICK WILLIAMS from Ogmere was seen at his best when landing the prestigious Dunraven Welsh Foxhunters Hunters Chase at Ffos Las on Sunday on the Steve Bevan-trained Bobs Law.

Nick, younger brother of National Hunt jockey Christian Williams, had the nine-year-old in the nine-year-old in the lead four fences from the finish, went on to win by 12 lengths from the odds-on favourite Tricky Trickster ridden by Steve Clements.

Tricky Trickster, who never looked like challenging the winner, is trained by the legendary Paul Nicholls while Bobs Law, who missed last season owing to injury, is trained by Pyle's Steve Bevan, who learned a lot about horses from his uncle, John Moore, who bought him his first pony.

In 2011, Bobs Law finished first past the post in the Dunraven Bowl Hunter Chase at

by BRIAN LEE

Chepstow, only to be disqualified after testing positive. Bobs Law's connections have said they were unable to understand why as the horse had been tested and cleared a fortnight before the race!

Bobs Law was certainly fancied by his connections as he was backed from 10-1 to 5-1. No doubt, Welsh enthusiasts backed him for pounds, shillings and pence as they say.

Vale horses in trial

Cappa Bleu, trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, and Saint Are, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthorn, finished second and third respectively to Vno Griego in the Weatherbys Hamilton Insurance Chase at Ascot last Saturday.

Top weighted Cappa

Bleu, who finished fourth in last year's Grand National, finished two-and-a-half lengths behind the winner with Saint Are, who made a couple of mistakes in the closing stages, a further six lengths away.

Bookmakers must have been impressed with Cappa Bleu's performance as they reduced his odds from 20-1 to 16-1. Cappa Bleu was ridden by Paul Moloney and Saint Are by Richard Johnson.

Myfanwy Miles's Findlays Find won the mixed open race under Ann Stirling, at the Vine and Craven Hunt Steeplechases at Barbury Racecourse on Sunday.

Welsh champion point-to-point rider John Mathias took the restricted open race at the South Pool Harriers at Buckfastleigh on the French-bred Robin Will.

Contact Brian Lee on 029 2073 6438.

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Rugby joy for five under-16s

FOLLOWING training camps and trials held last week, five boys from Cowbridge under-16s have been selected for the Wales under-16s squad.

The five boys selected are Jo Gaughan, Dan Holder, Joel Ringer, Rhys Forse and Josh Rodgers; Nicky Griffiths was unfortunate to miss the cut having been one of the first names on the team sheet for the Blues all season.

Congratulations boys and best of luck for the forthcoming games against England, France, Scotland and the USA.

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GEM sport

SAME AGAIN WALES NEED TO TREAD WARILY IN ROME

by DON JOHN

BUOYED by their gutsy 16-6 backs-to-the wall win in Paris, and an early vote of confidence from the coaches, the Welsh team set off for Rome today with new-found self-belief, as Six Nations hostilities resume this weekend.

Though clearly elated by finally ending an eight-match losing run, albeit by narrow margins, and atoning for the dismal first half display against Ireland that prematurely ended all hope of retaining the Grand Slam and Triple Crown won last year, they know they will need to be very wary of Italy, who can no longer be regarded as international 'push-overs'.

After all, the Italians also have France's scalp hanging from their belt and, notwithstanding their heavy 34-10 defeat by the Scots in Edinburgh, will be a far different proposition on home soil.

While it is true that Wales have won 16 of the 19 matches played since they first locked horns, including the 24-3 result in Cardiff last year, en route to the Grand Slam – and (in theory)

should have little difficulty in accounting for the tournament 'minnows' once again – victory certainly cannot and will not be taken for granted.

This is, after all, the Six Nations, where anything can happen – and often does!

Not only have Italy recorded two famous home wins against Wales – 23-20 on March 1, 2007 and 30-22 on February 13, 2003 – plus an epic 18-18 draw at the Millennium Stadium on March 11, 2006, today's Azzurri are a rapidly-evolving force, under an astute French coach who has added improved back play to their legendary strengths up front.

The result is a far more balanced unit that no-one can now afford to take lightly, as not only France, the pre-season title favourites, have found to their cost in recent seasons.

Moreover, they have never had any difficulty in running up scores against Wales, at an average of 17 points per game – amassing a respectable 323 points over the 19 matches, compared

THE WAY FORWARD!



to Wales' 615 total.

Against that, the Welsh camp can be encouraged by the fact that they have triumphed in the last five meetings between the two nations and are looking to consolidate a return to form, while still not abandoning their championship hopes.

In this respect, no doubt, the Welsh camp will have one ear turned to Twickenham, where tournament favourites England expect to hand the beleaguered French a third defeat in a

row, and also to Murrayfield, where Wales' next opponents meet Ireland, who were stunned by the English in Dublin.

For the home nations players, of course, the sub-text to the Six Nations continues to be the allure of a place on the British & Irish Lions tour of Australia in the summer.

In the words of the well-worn cliché so beloved of sports commentators – "there's everything to play for"

ABOVE:
Where it all begins in Rome... up front... and Ryan Jones and his men will need to meet the Italian threat head on.

Picture by Huw Evans Agency.

Students teach Athletic a lesson



Stuart Morris on the attack.
PICTURE BY KERRY FOTHERGILL

CARDIFF Metropolitan went into this game in third place in the Championship, having won eight successive league games since suffering defeats to Bridgend Athletic and league leaders Ebbw Vale at the beginning of October.

Bridgend Athletic had won three of their last four league games, with only a 15-14 defeat by high fliers Bargoed interrupting their sequence, so hopes were high that the Athletic could run the students close.

However, the students are no longer the free flowing run from anywhere side associated with the old UWIC. They now have a large mobile pack and build their game around this platform. They have a strong set scrum with a large front row, tall well-built second rows and a big mobile back row.

They used their pack to good advantage on a slippery pitch to control possession. The Athletic were forced largely into defensive mode in the

first period.

However, it was the Athletic who opened the scoring after wing James Olds pressurised an up and under forcing a penalty which outside half Steve Lewis slotted from 30 metres.

The students soon responded and a period of pressure inside the Athletic 22 drew a penalty, which outside half Mark Cooke kicked to level the scores.

The Cardiff side continued to apply pressure but the Athletic defence was solid and kept them out. Prominent were prop Liam Griffin, who had the highest tackle count, flanker Sean Williams and hooker Simon Mustoe in the pack, while scrum half Aled Thomas and wings James Olds and Michael Hathaway were sure in defence. Full back Jonathan Phillips was prominent under the high ball and was the Athletic's most potent attacker.

Ironically, while on the back foot the Athletic coped well with the pressure. However, for the final 10 minutes of the fight they went on the offensive.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 37

Disabled team make their debut

BRIDGEND
Disabled FC made their debut in the West Wales Disability League in Pembroke recently.

The league meeting was hosted by Cleddau Warriors, and included under-12, under-16, over-16 novice, over-16 championship and over-16 premiership level.

Competing at premiership level, the first game saw them face Bridgend Herons, which they won 2-1 with goals from Gavin Stephens and Andrew Crouch.

The second game saw Michael Burke score the winner against Aberystwyth Town or a well deserved 1-0 win and the final game was very tight but resulted in a draw 0-0 against Swansea Bravehearts.

A fantastic day of football and the team have proven they are a force to be reckoned with.

KH

PENCOED EARN A COMFORTABLE WIN

PENCOED extended their winning new year run with this comfortable 32-13 success over Neath Athletic at the Recreation Ground.

It was the visitors, however, who opened the scoring in the early minutes, capitalising on a hesitant home defence, Liam Mogford crossing wide out.

Pencoed second row Paul Macfarlane then stole a Neath Athletic throw before driving downfield with a strong carry. The home side hit back in the 12th minute, a scrum on the visitors' 22 providing the platform for a thrust down the blindside through No8 Gareth Prentice and scrum half Ben Read, who fed outside half and captain for the day, Marc Davies, who sprinted in from the 22 before adding the conversion from wide out.

The visitors regained the lead, with fly half Chris Gorman kicking a 26th minute penalty goal. Pencoed's line out appeared a little rusty following a three-week break, with the result they were unable to build momentum from good field position.

Approaching half time however, the Pencoed pack gained a foothold in the visitors' 22, and following several concerted drives, player coach Aaron Halse got the touchdown wide out. Davies hit the upright with the conversion, and Pencoed led 12-8 at the break.

Early in the second half, back row forward Halse was again in the picture, turning over ball deep in his 22, allowing Davies to clear his lines.

Neath Athletic then picked up a yellow card, but despite territorial advantage during this period, Pencoed could not break down the defence.

Shortly before the visitors returned to full strength, Davies increased the

home lead with a fine wide angled 40-metre penalty goal, before kicking another 35-metre effort to extend the Pencoed lead to 18-8.

Going into the final 15 minutes, the Pencoed scrum was becoming more and more dominant, the introduction of front rowers Nicky Hawkins and Christian Powell giving the home eight fresh impetus.

Davies put his side into prime position metres from the Neath Athletic line with a fine 60-metre diagonal, and the home scrum did the rest, Halse getting his second touchdown; Davies converted for a 25-8 lead.

To their credit, the visitors did not lie down, and only a last ditch tackle from home full back Tom Cross prevented a score. The visitors continued to press and got their reward with a try from left wing Lyndon Lewis.

Pencoed were not finished, however, and returned to the attack, with left wing Richie Samuel picking a superb angle to split the defence and race in from some 30 metres for the try bonus point. Davies converted for a final scoreline of 32-13.

Fly half Marc Davies was deservedly chosen as Pencoed man of the match with a match haul of 17 points, and will no doubt recognise the efforts of his pack in this victory. Industrious hooker Iuan Watkins, in particular was a man of the match candidate.

The team now break off for the Italy international before returning to league action at Resolven on Saturday, March 2.

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